THE

Beauties of the Creation;

OR, A NEW

MORAL SYSTEM

OF

NATURAL HISTORY;

DISPLAYED IN THE

Most singular, curious, and beautiful,

QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS, INSECTS, TREES, and *FLOWERS:*

Designed to inspire Youth with Humanity towards the Brute Creation, and bring them early acquainted with the wonderful Works of the Divine Creator.

'*Who can this Field of Miracles survey,*
'*And not with* GALEN *all in rapture say,*
'*Behold a* GOD! *adore him, and obey.*'

Blackmore on the Creation.

VOLUME I.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR G. RILEY, NO. 33, LUDGATE-STREET;

And sold by

MESS. CHAMPANTE AND WHITROW;

AND S. HAZARD, BOOKSELLER, BATH.

1790.

1107/2

TO

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE PRINCESS AMELIA

THIS WORK

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS'S

MOST DEVOTED AND OBEDIENT

HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE EDITOR.

BRITISH MUSEUM

PREFACE.

NATURAL HISTORY, in its general ſenſe, comprehending the whole produce of the Creation, as conſiſting of Beaſts, Birds, Fiſhes, Inſects, Reptiles, Flowers, Plants, Stones, Foſſils, and Minerals, it was impoſſible to include, in two ſmall volumes like the following, even the names of the different articles: we were therefore obliged to make a ſelection of a part, which we conſidered the moſt curious, intereſting, and worthy the attention of the pupil ſtudying that ſcience of Nature.

In the progreſs of the work, thoſe Beaſts, Birds, Inſects, and Flowers, are particularly deſcribed,

that are diſtinguiſhed by any peculiar characteriſtics of beauty, utility, curioſity, or medicinal virtue.

It has been our endeavour to trace more thoſe grand outlines of ſublime wonders that elevate the heart to the Creator, than to deſcend to the minute inveſtigation of a mere ſpeculatiſt; for, in the work of the ingenious Blackmore,

"Who can this field of miracles ſurvey,
"And not with GALEN* all in rapture ſay,
"Behold a GOD! adore him, and obey!"

This engaging ſubject, much as it is neglected, is, of all others, the moſt neceſſary to finiſh

* GALEN was profeſſedly an atheiſt, until he providentially ſaw a human ſkeleton, which, conſidering attentively, with regard to the wiſdom diſplayed in its ſtructure, was the immediate cauſe of his not only believing in a God, but becoming a moſt zealous profeſſor of religion.

finiſh a polite education. It ſoftens and humanizes the mind imperceptibly; for it leads us to this ſublime truth—That nothing is created in vain; and teaches us, that a knowledge of God is the moſt noble, and ſhould therefore be the ultimate object of all our purſuits. This divine ſcience is therefore the only means by which we can know ourſelves, and be grateful for thoſe beings that are created for our uſe, ſupport, and protection.

We have been more anxious to vindicate the dignity of Nature, than to debaſe it with puerile reſearches. Whenever any grand deviation was obſervable in one beaſt or bird from another, we made free to ſearch for the final cauſe, independent of former opinions, however ſanctioned by authority, when they happened not to be congenial with our own ſentiments. To trace the

final

final cauſes, or the reaſons of the difference in the various claſſes of birds and beaſts, is the firſt and moſt eſſential object to purſue in the ſtudy of Nature. To look for differences, as ſome have done, only to gratify a prepoſſeſſion for novelty, without improving the mind or amending the heart, is to turn Natural Hiſtory into a raree-ſhow, inſtead of adopting it as a ſcience.

To avoid that tedious detail of deſcription which tires by its ſameneſs, and confuſes by its intricacy, we have ſpecified only thoſe characteriſtics that were eſſential to notice, in order to be able to diſtinguiſh one animal from another: but, in this, the peculiar beauties are more particularly noticed than any deviation of colour or form, that had no quality to recommend it to our attention.

With

With reſpect to the arrangement, we have endeavoured to preſent it as ſyſtematically to our readers, as an abridgement could poſſibly admit. That the ſtudent might know of what ſpecies every bird and beaſt was, which this volume contains, they are deſcribed in the order of their reſpective claſſes. Whenever there were more of a ſpecies than the limits of the work would admit of being deſcribed, they are ſpecified by name, according to the moſt accurate naturaliſts.

It being the deſire of the Proprietor of this work to render every part of it as complete as in his power, he has taken all poſſible care to obtain the moſt correct drawings of the different Beaſts, Birds, Inſects, and Flowers, contained in theſe volumes; for he conceived that nothing can tend ſo much to impreſs any deſcription on the

the mind, as the addition of a perfect representation of the original: impressed with this opinion, he hopes his endeavours to aid the undertaking with all that could render it instructive and interesting, will be received as a small token of that respect he has for the public patronage he now ventures to solicit.

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ADDRESS.

THE Principle on which the HISTORICAL POCKET LIBRARY was originally projected, and the plan on which it is executed, is briefly as follows:

VOL. I.

HEATHEN MYTHOLOGY.

THE first Volume, conta ng the Hiſtory of the Heathen Gods and Goddeſſes, Demi-gods, and other Fabulous Deities of the Ancients, affords a moral and comprehenſive detail of the different imaginary attri-

a butes,

butes, and idolatrous ceremonies of the Pagan world, deſigned to illuſtrate the HEATHEN MYTAOLOGY, and facilitate the ſtudy of HISTORY, POETRY, PAINTING, STATUARY, &c. diveſted of thoſe unſeemly circumſtances which have rendered this neceſſary branch of hiſtory ſo improper for the peruſal of young people. With ſelect paſſages from the claſſics, illuſtrating each character.

VOL. II.

ANCIENT HISTORY.

THE Elements of ANCIENT HISTORY form the ſecond Volume; in which every thing memorable is exemplified, in the conduct and character of the moſt diſtinguiſhed kings, legiſlators, warriors, and philoſophers, of former times. To which is added, a ſuccinct account of the firſt peopling, conqueſt, and of the different poſſeſſors of India.

VOL.

VOL. III.

GRECIAN HISTORY.

THE GRECIAN HISTORY contains an account of its wars, revolutions, progress in arts and sciences, with the characters of the most distinguished generals, statesmen, and philosophers, from the earliest establishments of the states, until the whole country was subjected to the Roman empire.

VOL. IV.

HISTORY of the ROMANS.

THE ROMAN HISTORY, illustrating the unparalleled and glorious periods of the Roman republic, comprises the fourth Volume: The history of which cannot be too much attended to, nor too early inculcated into the minds of youth, especially those of an high rank.

VOL. V.

HISTORY of ENGLAND.

THE ENGLISH HISTORY, biographical and chronological, in which is compriſed every important event in the Hiſtory of England, from the earlieſt accounts, forms the fifth Volume; the utility of which, to enforce here would be unneceſſary.

VOL. VI.

GEOGRAPHY.

THE ſixth Volume contains an account of the different nations, ancient and modern, ſo far as relate to their ſituation and climate, their riſe and fall, their religion, their cuſtoms and manners; including a deſcription of each country, on the reſpective productions of which, commerce has been eſtabliſhed, and ſociety

ſociety cemented, for the good of mankind. To which, at the requeſt of ſeveral of the Nobility is now added, in two volumes,

A NEW MORAL SYSTEM OF

NATURAL HISTORY.

NATURAL HISTORY, compoſes the concluding Volumes, treating of Quadrupeds, Birds, Inſects and Flowers. This engaging ſubject, much as it is neglected, is of all others, the moſt neceſſary to finiſh a polite education, imperceptibly, as it ſoftens and humanizes the mind, while, by leading us to this ſublime truth, that nothing is created in vain, we obtain, what ought to be the ultimate object of all our purſuits, a knowledge of GOD, of ourſelves, and of the beings he has formed for our uſe, ſupport, and protection.

SUCH are the general outlines of the preſent work, now ſubmitted to the judgment of Parents and the

Guardians of Youth: a work, whose sole object is to form an happy union of instruction and amusement. In a word, to render, what has been perverted into an irksome burthen to the youthful mind, an agreeable and a rational pastime.

The Proprietor has only to observe that the success, which has already attended his endeavours to promote the love of virtue and knowledge in the above work, has far exceeded his most sanguine expectations. He begs leave, in gratitude, to declare, that no trouble, no expence, have been spared to render the present enlarged edition, a work of lasting utility to the rising generation, and an agreeable useful Pocket Companion to all who wish to acquire a knowledge of the above important and interesting subjects. By

The Public's obliged and devoted servant,

GEORGE RILEY.

No. 33.
Ludgate-Street.

From

FROM THE

REVIEWS, &c.

A Reverend ingenious Editor in his Review of new books for the month of January, after very ably diſcuſſing on the great benefit which ſociety in general derives from the early education of youth, concludes his remarks on the merits of the Hiſtorical Pocket Library with the following obſervations:

——— We acknowledge with REAL REGRET that the preſent ſyſtem of female education is too imperfect and confined; and we earneſtly look and long for

for that happy period, when the minds of Nature's faireſt works will not be ſhackled by an improper courſe of education, and when the gratification received by ſolid inſtruction will effectually induce them to beſtow on their children the valuable acquiſition of a well informed mind.

To remove, in a great meaſure, the force of the above argument, is, we think, one of the leading purpoſes of this valuable publication. Here uſeful knowledge is collected, claſſified, and expreſſed in the moſt conciſe, ſimple, and eaſy manner, and rendered palatable by the moſt uſeful embelliſhments of correct prints, repreſenting a likeneſs of the perſons alluded to, or the animals deſcribed in this uſeful publication.

In this work conſiſting of ſix ſmall duodecimo volemes, is contained, as a ground work for the infant ſtudent, ample information in Heathen Mythology, in Ancient Hiſtory, in Roman Hiſtory, in the Hiſtory of

of England, in Geography, and in Natural Hiſtory. It is printed on a very fine paper, and an excellent type. Its object is to ſerve as a key to open the mind to extenſive views of the natural and moral worlds, and to lead youth to ADMIRE THE WISDOM and adore the goodneſs of GOD; the firſt grand and valuable principle of every thing virtuous and praiſe worthy. We therefore heartily recommend it to the uſe, not only of CHILDREN, but of PARENTS THEMSELVES, as a publication which, in every reſpect, does the HEAD and HEART of the editor the higheſt honour.

THE Editor of the Biographical Magazine for the ſame month obſerves, that

——— THE ſubjects of theſe uſeful, moral, and elegent volumes, are treated with great taſte, ingenuity of obſervation, and morality of principle.

THE mythological volume is well calculated for an introduction to claſſical learning. The principal deities of

of the heathens are deſcribed with the greateſt chaſtity of ſentiment and language: We therefore ſeriouſly recommend it not only to all ſeminaries of early education, but to all perſons who wiſh to acquire the rudiments of polite literature.

The other volumes are equally deſerving our praiſe for the ſyſtematical arrangement, novelty, judicious reflection, and purity of language.

The able conductor of the Gentleman's Magazine for the month of April, remarks, that

——— The endeavours of the proprietor of theſe volumes, to promote the real intereſt of virtue and knowledge, are highly laudable, and the judicious manner in which the work is performed demands our recommendation.

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NATURAL HISTORY.

QUADRUPEDS.

THEIR GENERAL NATURE.

INTRODUCTION.

QUADRUPEDS, after MAN, in Natural Hiſtory, require the next attention, and for the following reaſons. Being of ſimilar ſtructure with ourſelves, having inſtincts and properties ſuperior to all other parts of Animated

Nature, affording great aſſiſtance to Man, and ſometimes exerciſing the greateſt hoſtilities, muſt render them the moſt intereſting part of the Creation, and claim the firſt attention of the Naturaliſt.

SIMILITUDE TO MAN.---Like us, they are elevated above the Birds, by their young being produced alive; above the claſs of Fiſhes, by breathing through the lungs; above Inſects, by blood circulating through their veins; and moſtly, above all parts of the Creation, by being partly or entirely covered with hair. Since Quadrupeds ſo nearly approach us in animal perfection, how little reaſon have we to be vain of our corporeal qualities!

FIGURE.---The heads of Quadrupeds are generally adapted to their mode of living. In ſome, it is ſharp, to enable them to turn up the earth, where they find their food depoſited; in others, it is long, in order to afford room for the olfactory nerves; in many, it is ſhort and thick, to ſtrengthen the jaw, and qualify it for combat. Their legs and feet are entirely formed to the nature and exigencies of the animal. When the body

body is heavy, the legs are thick and ſtrong; when it is light, they are active and ſlender. Thoſe that feed on fiſh, are made for ſwimming, by having webbed feet; thoſe that prey upon animals, are provided with claws, which they can draw and ſheath at pleaſure; but the more peaceable and domeſtic animals are generally furniſhed with hoofs, which, being more neceſſary for defence than attack, enable them to traverſe the immenſe tracts which they are deſtined to paſs over, either to ſerve man, ſearch for food, or avoid hoſtility.

DISPOSITION FOR PREY.---Beaſts of Prey ſeldom devour each other. Nothing but extreme hunger can induce them to commit this outrage againſt Nature; and, when they are obliged to ſeek ſuch a ſubſiſtence, the weakeſt affords to the ſtrongeſt but a diſagreeable repaſt. In ſuch caſes, the Deer or Goat is what they particularly ſeek after, which they either take by purſuit or ſurpriſe.

NATURAL SAGACITY.---In countries uninhabited by Man, ſome animals have been found in a kind of

civil ſociety, where they ſeemed united in mutual friendſhip and benevolence: but no ſooner does Man intrude upon their haunts, than their bond of ſociety is diſſolved, and every animal ſeeks ſafety in ſolitude.

CLOTHING OF ANIMALS.---In the colder climates, they are covered with a fur, which preſerves them from the inclemencies of the weather; in the more temperate, they have ſhort, and in the warmer climates, they have ſcarcely any hair upon their bodies. Thus we perceive that they are provided with clothing, according to the nature of their ſituation.

FEROCITY.---Where men are the moſt barbarous, animals are the moſt ferocious. Thoſe produced in climates of extreme heat, poſſeſs a nature ſo ſavage, that they are ſcarcely ever tamed.

FOOD.---The place, as well as the nature of their food, is adapted to the ſize and ſpecies of the animal. Thoſe feeding in vallies are generally larger than thoſe that ſeek their food on mountaints. In warm climates, their

their plenteous and nutritive food renders them remarkable for bulk. Milk is their firſt aliment.

PRODUCE.---Beaſts that are large, uſeleſs, and formidable, produce but few at a time, while thoſe that are ſmall, ſerviceable, and inoffenſive, are more prolific. This ſeems to be adapted with the moſt admirable proportion; for, were the ſmaller and weaker to have leſs offſpring, their race might be deſtroyed, by being ſo frequently made the prey of ſtronger animals.

COURAGE.---In defence of their young, no danger or terror can drive animals from their protection. Such as have force, and ſubſiſt by rapine, are moſt formidable in their ferocious courage.

GENERATION.---Each ſpecies of Quadrupeds bring forth their young at the time when Nature moſt plenteouſly affords them their reſpective nutriment. Thoſe animals which hoard up proviſions for the winter, produce their young in January, by which time they are enabled to collect ſufficient ſubſiſtence for their offſpring.

Quadrupeds which are called *oviparous*, from being hatched from eggs, ſuch as the Crocodile, Turtle, &c. are the moſt prolific, being no ſooner freed from the ſhell than they attain their utmoſt ſtate of animal perfection.

EVERY ſpecies of animal has its peculiar cry, by which they diſtinguiſh each other, and communicate the general expreſſions of their paſſions, as fear, joy, deſire, &c. Thus has the all-wiſe, bountiful, and divine Creator, in his infinite wiſdom, formed a race of animals for the uſe of mankind, and granted us dominion over them, which ſhould never be exerciſed but with the greateſt humanity.

THE

Of their hides are made collars, and all kinds of harneſs; their manes and tails are uſed in perukes, lines for angling, covering for chair ſeats, cords, floor-cloths, and a variety of other articles.

Although they are endowed with vaſt ſtrength, and great powers, yet they ſeldom exert either to the prejudice of their maſters; on the contrary, they will cheerfully encounter the greateſt fatigues for their benefit. They fear and love the human race, and are of a very benevolent diſpoſition. And yet, notwithſtanding all the good qualities of this noble and generous animal, when he is ſo enfeebled by age, and worn down by the ſevere drudgery of his lordly maſter, as to be incapable of contributing any longer to his pleaſure, his ambition, or his avarice, he is (as if ingratitude was peculiar to the human ſpecies) ſold for ſcarcely the worth of his bridle. In this ſtate of lamentable exiſtence, he is conſigned to the cruel treatment of ſome inhuman wretch, who chaſtiſes him for that weakneſs incident to his old age, or which he has acquired in the ſervitude of his former maſter, and thus tortures

the remnant of his life, which ſhould, were it only for paſt ſervices, be cheriſhed with the moſt tender care and attention.

SUCH is the ſtrength of the Engliſh draught-horſe, that in London they have been ſeen to draw three tons weight. In Yorkſhire, the pack-horſes uſually carry a burthen of 420lb. over the higheſt hills.

THE

in eating, and contents himſelf with the refuſe of the vegetable creation. As to his drink, he is extremely delicate, for he will ſlake his thirſt at none but the cleareſt brooks, and thoſe to which he is moſt accuſtomed. When young he is ſprightly, and tolerably handſome; but age deprives him, as well as all other parts of animated nature, of thoſe qualities; he then becomes ſlow, ſtupid, and obſtinate. The She-aſs goes eleven months with young, and never produces more than one at a time.

THE ingenious author of the *Spectacle de la Nature* obſerves, in ſubſtance, that though he is not poſſeſſed of very ſhining qualities, yet what he enjoys are very ſolid; that the want of a noble air hath its compenſation in a mild and modeſt countenance; that his pace is uniform, and, although he is not extraordinary ſwift, he purſues his journey a long while without intermiſſion; and that he is perfectly well contented with the firſt thiſtle that preſents itſelf in his way; in ſhort, that this indefatigable animal, without expence or pride, repleniſhes our cities and villages with all ſorts of commodities.

With reſpect to their general diſpoſition, the ſame author informs us, "That the Aſs reſembles thoſe "people who are naturally heavy and pacific, whoſe "underſtanding and capacity are limited to huſbandry "or commerce, who proceed in the ſame track with-"out diſcompoſure, and complete, with a ſerious and "poſitive air, whatever they have once undertaken"

The medicinal virtues of Aſſes-milk, in reſtoring health and vigour to our debilitated conſtitutions, might alone entitle this harmleſs and inoffenſive animal to a kinder return than it generally experiences from their inhuman and ungrateful maſters!

THE ZEBRA.

THIS animal is the moſt wild and beautiful in nature, and is principally found in the ſouthern parts of Africa. It is ſaid to ſurpaſs all others in ſwiftneſs, and even ſtands better and firmer upon its legs than the Horſe. There was one in England that would eat bread, meat,

and tobacco. It differs from the wild Aſs, with which it has been frequently confounded, in the deſcription given of it by ſome naturaliſts. In ſhape it more reſembles the Mule, than the Horſe or the Aſs: it is leſs than the former, and longer than the latter: its ears are longer than thoſe of the Horſe, and ſhorter than thoſe of the Aſs: it has a large head, a ſtraight back, well-placed legs, and tufted tail. The ſkin is cloſe and ſmooth, and the hind quarters are round and well formed. The male is white and brown; the female white and black. The colours are ſo regularly ſtriped, that they appear to be painted, and reſemble ſo many ribbons laid over its body; ſo that, at a ſmall diſtance, the Zebra appears to have been dreſſed by art, inſtead of being ſo admirably adorned by Nature.

MULE.---This animal is bred between a Horſe and a She-aſs, or a Jack-aſs and a Mare. In Spain, where they are uſed to draw people of the firſt diſtinction, they are frequently ſold at fifty or ſixty guineas each. The common Mule is very healthy, and lives about thirty years.

RUMINATING

RUMINATING ANIMALS

ARE ſuch as are diſtinguiſhed for chewing the cud, and being the moſt mild and eaſily tamed. The Ferocious or the Carnivorous kinds, ſeek their food in gloomy ſolitude; but theſe range together in herds, and the very meaneſt of them unite in defence of each other. The food of Ruminating Animals being eaſily procured, they ſeem more indolent, and leſs artful than the Carnivorous kinds, or thoſe which feed on fleſh.

THE BULL, OX, AND COW.

OF all Ruminating Animals theſe are firſt in rank, both with reſpect to ſize, beauty, and ſervice. Many of our Engliſh peaſants have only a Cow, from which they obtain a livelihood. Cows improve the paſture which affords them their nouriſhment. Their age is calculated

calculated by their horns and teeth. Of all creatures, this animal is moſt affected by difference of ſoil, which, being luxuriant, increaſes their growth to a conſiderable ſize, while in more ſterile countries they are proportionally diminutive. In Great-Britain, the Ox is the only horned animal that will apply his ſtrength to the ſervice of mankind. The Ox, in particular, will grow to a prodigious ſize, an extraordinary inſtance of which is at this time to be ſeen in London: he was bred at Gedney, in the County of Lincoln, and is allowed by judges to be much the largeſt and fatteſt Ox ever ſeen in England; his beef and tallow alone being computed to weigh 350 ſtone, or 2800 pounds weight.

THERE is no part of this animal without utility; the blood, fat, marrow, hide, horns, hoofs, milk, cream, whey, urine, liver, gall, ſpleen, and bones, have each their particular qualities. The hide, when tanned, is manufactured into boots, ſhoes, and various other accommodations in life: vellum, and goldbeater's-ſkin are alſo obtained from theſe animals: the hair, mixed with lime, is uſed to cement our buildings: combs, knife handles,

handles, boxes, buttons, drinking veſſels, &c. are made of their horns, which are alſo uſed as antidotes to poiſon, the plague, and ſmall-pox: glue is made from the chips of their hoofs, and the parings of the raw hides. Their bones are an excellent ſubſtitute for ivory; and their feet afford an oil, ſo generally known under the name of *neat's-foot-oil*, that it needs no deſcription here. The blood is an excellent manure for fruit-trees, and the chief ingredient of Pruſſian-blue: the gall, liver, ſpleen, and urine, are uſed in medicine. Milk, cheeſe, cream, and butter, are too common to require particular mention. The fleſh is of two ſorts, namely, veal and beef, which, being dreſſed various ways, is calculated to invigorate the weak, ſupport the laborious, and gratify the voluptuous.

THE Urus, or Wild Bull, is generally found in Lithuania, a province of Poland.

THERE are other ſpecies of the Cow-kind, ſuch as the Biſon, Bonaſus, Zebu, Beevehog, Buffalo, and Siberian Cow.

THE

THE BUFFALO.

THE Buffalo, being more clumſy, is leſs beautiful than the Cow. His ſkin is alſo harder, thicker, blacker, and thinner of hair: his fleſh is hard, black, and diſagreeable, both to the taſte and ſmell: the milk, though abundant, is not ſo good as that which the Cow affords;

fords; in the warm countries, however, it is uſed to make cheeſe and butter. The hide, from its thickneſs and impenetrability, is dreſſed, and forms an article called *buff-leather*, after his name.

Two of theſe animals, yoked together, will draw more than four ſtrong horſes. When purſued, they will often ſwim over the largeſt rivers with great facility. They are found wild in many parts of Africa and Aſia, and are likewiſe very common in Italy, from whence they were brought into Lombardy, A. D. 591. They grow to twice the ſize of our largeſt oxen, and their horns are ſo large, that a pair is to be ſeen in the Muſeum which meaſure ſix feet, ſix inches, and a half in length, weigh forty-two pounds, and hold ten quarts of water in their vacuities. Ariſtotle, very properly, calls theſe creatures Wild Oxen.

In the weſtern parts of Florida, on this ſide the Miſſiſſippi, the Buffalo is hunted after the following manner: the hunters range themſelves in four lines, forming a very large ſquare; they then ſet fire to the graſs, which is long and

and dry; the animals draw closer together, as the fire runs along the lines, of which they are much afraid, and naturally fly from it, until they get quite close together: they then attack them briskly, seldom suffering any to escape. At these hunting-matches they generally kill from a thousand to fifteen hundred of these animals.

The Buffalo, like other animals that feed on grass, is inoffensive when undisturbed; but, when wounded, or even fired at, their fury is ungovernable.

In India, there is a smaller kind of Buffalo, which they make use of to draw their coaches.

In the northern parts of America there is another animal, larger than the Ox, which has short black horns, a large beard, and a head so covered with hair, that he makes a most formidable appearance.

ANIMALS of the SHEEP and GOAT KIND.

ALTHOUGH this ſpecies comprehends many animals of a ſimilar nature, they differ with regard to their bodies, horns, food, and covering.

THE utility and inoffenſive nature of theſe animals, is a proof that they have been long reclaimed from their wild ſtate, and adapted to domeſtic purpoſes. They both appear to require protection from man, whom they reward with the greateſt favours; they ſeem, indeed, to court his ſociety. Though the Sheep is moſt ſerviceable, the Goat has more attachment and ſenſibility. In the earlieſt ages the Goat appears to have been the greater favourite, and ſtill continues ſo amongſt the poor. But the Sheep has long been the principal object of human care and attention; we ſhall therefore begin with

THE

THE SHEEP.

THIS animal, in its tame ſtate, is the moſt harmleſs and defenceleſs. When wild, it is ſaid to be of vaſt ſwiftneſs, and only found in great flocks. As ſoon as they are attacked, they form a ring, into the centre of which the Ewes fall, where they are defended by the Rams

Rams in the moſt vigorous manner. The woolly Sheep is only found in Europe, and ſome of the temperate provinces of Aſia. When fat, it is aukward in its motions, eaſily fatigued, and frequently ſinks under the weight of its own corpulence and rich fleeces. There is no part of this admirable animal but what has its particular uſe.

When two Rams meet, they engage very fiercely. Every Ewe knows its Lamb, and every Lamb the bleating of its Ewe, even amidſt thouſands. In England, they chiefly feed on downs, in paſtures, young ſpringing corn lands, or turnip fields; but the downs have, from long experience, been found to prove by far the moſt beneficial, on account of the air and dryneſs of ſoil, no animal being ſo ſubject to the rot as Sheep, if fed on marſhy land. The whole flock of Ewes, Wethers, and Lambs, are ſheared once a year. Wethers have generally more and better wool than the Ewes. Such is their utility in agriculture, that an hundred Sheep will manure eight acres of ground.

In Iceland they have a ſpecies of this animal, called Many-horned Sheep; they are of a dark brown colour, and, under the outward coat of hair, have a fine, ſhort, ſoft fur, reſembling wool.

In Spain, the Sheep produce a wool ſuperior to that of any other country. It is of ſo excellent a quality, that our clothiers and hatters are obliged to purchaſe it at a very great price, in order to enable them to manufacture ſome of their eſtimable articles.

The great utility of Sheep to this country, may be ſeen by the following moderate calculation of fleece-wool annually produced by their growth.

According to the calculation of Young, in his *Six Months Tour*, there are 466,532 packs of wool manufactured in Great-Britain and Ireland, and 285,000 packs exported unmanufactured. The value of which, eſtimated at an average of £. 7. per pack, amounts to £. 5,260,724. The quantity manufactured is ſuppoſed to amount to the ſum of £. 12,434,855, annually, which

is

is circulated amongſt induſtrious artiſans. As the whole value of our manufactures, at the above period of calculation, was ſaid not to exceed £.44,350,529, this article alone may be conſidered as equal in value to one-third of all the reſt of our produce and manufactures. But what evinces ſtill more the value of Sheep to Great-Britain and her dependencies, is, that the wool affords employment to 1,557,834, out of 4,250,434, people, which are ſuppoſed to be the number of the laborious part.

BROAD-TAILED Sheep are found in Tartary, Arabia, Perſia, Barbary, Syria, and Egypt. Such is the weight of wool on their tails, that Pennant ſays, ſome have been known to weigh fifty pounds; to preſerve which from wet, dirt, or other injury, they are uſually ſupported by a ſmall board running upon wheels.

OF the Sheep kind, beſide theſe, there are the Strepſicheros, found in Crete, and other iſlands of the Archipelago, the Guinea Sheep, and the Moufflon.

THE

THE GOAT.

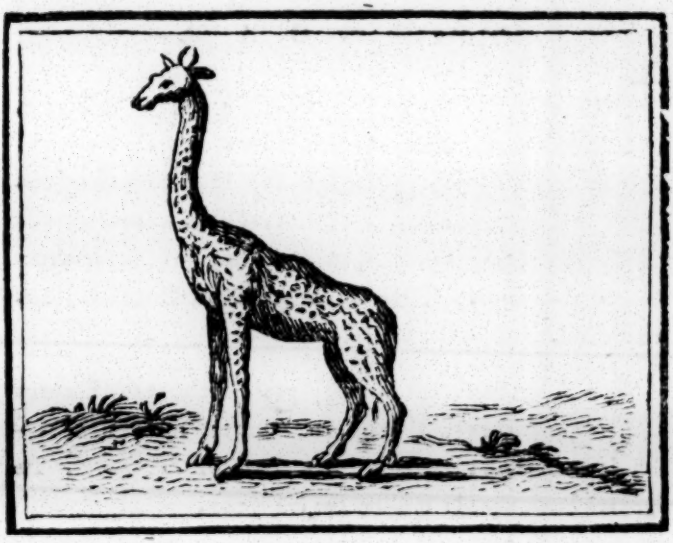
THIS animal differs moſt eſſentially from the Sheep, in being covered with hair inſtead of wool. Its chief delight is to climb the higheſt and ſteepeſt precipices. They are neither terrified at ſtorms, or incommoded by rain. According to the climate, they will have from two to five kids. Their milk is ſweet, nutritive, and medicinal.

THE Goat is found in every part of the world: every clime ſeems congenial with its nature: for which reaſon it may juſtly be called a citizen of the world. Its age ſeldom exceeds ten or twelve years.

THE Ibex, or Stone-Goat, is ſaid to have horns two yards long, which increaſe by knots annually.

OF the ſeveral diſtinct ſpecies of this animal, there are, the Goat of Angora, Syrian Goat, the ſmall American Goat, Blue Goat, Juda and Siberian Goat, and the Greenland Goat, the latter of which has horns an ell long.

THE



THE CAMELOPARD.

THE Camelopard ſomewhat reſembles the Deer in form, without its ſymmetry. It has been found eighteen feet high, and ten from the ground to the top of the ſhoulder. The hinder parts are ſo low, that, when ſtanding upright, it greatly reſembles a Dog ſitting. Neither the

the form or the temper of this animal adapts him for hoſtility or defence; he is therefore timorous and inoffenſive, and, notwithſtanding its ſize, will endeavour to avoid, rather than attack an enemy. It is chiefly a native of Ethiopia. The extraordinary length of the fore legs obliges him to divide them when he feeds on vegetables; to avoid which trouble, he ſubſiſts moſtly on the leaves of trees. It is very rare in Europe; but in earlier times it was known to the Romans, as, among the collection of eaſtern animals, made on the celebrated Prænestine pavement, by the direction of Scylla, the Camelopard is found. It was likewiſe exhibited by Julius Cæſar, in the Circean Games.

It was ſuppoſed by the Greeks to be generated between a Camel and a Leopard, from whence it derives its name. It is ſo uncommon, that not above one or two have been ſeen in Europe for many hundred years. Some have necks fifteen feet long. When they walk, they move both their fore-legs together.

THE ANTELOPE

IS principally diſtinguiſhed from the Goat and Deer, by having its horns annulated and twiſted, bunches of hair on the fore legs, the lower part of the ſides being ſtreaked with black, red, or brown, and the inſide of the ears having three white ſtreaks.

THE

THE Antelope generally inhabits the warmeſt climates, thoſe of America excepted. It is equally active and elegant, timid, lively, and vigilant. Like the Hare, its hind legs are longeſt. It has alſo cloven feet, and permanent horns, like the ſheep, which are ſmaller in the female than the male.

THE chaſe of theſe animals is a favourite diverſion in the Eaſt. In fleetneſs they exceed the Greyhound, which frequently cauſes the ſportſman to train a Falcon to overtake them in the chaſe. Their ſwiftneſs has afforded many beautiful ſimilies and alluſions in the Eaſtern poetry. The eye of the Antelope is ſuppoſed to be the moſt beautiful of any animal in the world; bleſſing brilliancy with meekneſs. Some of this ſpecies form themſelves into herds of two or three thouſand, and generally ſeek their food in hilly countries. Several ſyſtematic writers have erroneouſly ranked this animal among the Goat kind; for it forms an intermediate genus between that ſpecies and the Deer; the texture and permanency of the horns agreeing with the firſt, while their fleetneſs and elegance accord with the latter.

THERE is another ſpecies of this animal, called the Royal Antelope, or Little Guinea Deer, which is the leaſt and moſt beautiful of all the cloven-footed race. It is ſcarcely nine inches high, and the ſmall part of its legs are little thicker than a gooſe-quill. It is moſt delicately ſhaped, reſembling that of a Stag in miniature, except that the horns of the male (for the female has none) are hollow and annulated, as in the Gazelle kind. It has broad ears, and two canine teeth in the upper jaw. The colour is as beautiful as the ſymmetry of this little animal, being of a fine gloſſy yellow, except the neck and belly, which parts are perfectly white. It is a native of Senegal, and ſome parts of Africa. It is ſo active, that it will bound over a wall twelve feet high. It is eaſily tamed, when it becomes very entertaining and familiar, but of ſo delicate a conſtitution, that it can bear none but the hotteſt climates.

OF Antelopes there are, beſides thoſe before deſcribed, the following different ſpecies:---Common, Blue, Egyptian, Bezoar, Harneſſed, African, Indoſtan, White-footed, Swift, Red, Striped, Chineſe, Scythian, Cervine, and Senegal Antelope.

ANIMALS of the DEER KIND.

ALTHOUGH the Bull and Stag do not reſemble each other in ſhape and form, yet their internal ſtructure is very ſimilar. All the internal difference between them is, that the Deer has no gall-bladder, while the ſpleen is proportionably larger, and the kidnies differently formed.

THE firſt animal of this ſpecies that ſeems to claim our attention, is the ELK.

THE ELK, OR FEMALE MOOSE.

THIS animal is a native of both the old and new continent. In Europe, it is called the Elk, and in America, the Mooſe Deer. It is ſometimes taken in the foreſts of Germany and Ruſſia; but they are found in great numbers in North America. Of the various accounts

accounts given of this animal, the following is eſteemed the moſt authentic. A female Elk, only twelve months old, which was in the poſſeſſion of the late *Marquis of Rockingham*, meaſured to the top of the withers fifteen hands; the length, from noſe to tail, was ſeven feet: it had a ſhort neck, with a thick erect mane, and the body was covered with hoary black hair. It was brought from America, and therefore called a Mooſe Deer. As it was ſo young, we may conclude, that, in its wild, and natural ſtate, it grows to an amazing height. It is aſſerted by ſome, that in America it grows to the height of twelve feet. This animal is reported to be timorous, gentle, and inoffenſive. It ſwims and runs with incredible ſwiftneſs. The Elk delights in cold countries, where they feed on graſs in ſummer, and on the bark of trees in winter. In ſnowy weather they aſſemble in herds, and ſeek the fir-foreſts, where they remain, while they can find the leaſt ſubſiſtance from the bark of the trees. At this time they are moſtly hunted by the natives of New England, Nova Scotia, and Canada, in America; by the inhabitants of Lapland, Norway, Sweden, and Ruſſia, in Europe; and by

the inhabitants of the N E parts of Tartary and Siberia, in Aſia. The chaſe of theſe animals frequently continues two or three days.

THE fleſh of the Antelope has an agreeable taſte, and is ſaid to be nouriſhing. The ſkin is ſo ſtrong and thick, as to reſiſt a muſquet ball. Its horns are uſed for the ſame purpoſes as Harts horns.

THEY were formerly uſed in Sweden to draw ſledges; but criminals frequently availing themſelves of their ſwiftneſs, to eſcape the purſuit of juſtice, the uſe of them was prohibited under very ſevere penalties.

THE

THE REIN-DEER.

THIS is the moſt uſeful and extraordinary animal of all the Deer kind. It is a native of the northern icy regions, and ſeems adapted by Nature to ſerve that part of mankind who live near the pole. It inhabits further northward than any other hoofed animal; for it is

found in Spitzbergen and Greenland. But, in America, it is never ſeen farther ſouthward than Canada. In Europe, they are alſo found in Samoidea, Lapland, and Norway. In Aſia, they are ſeen as far as Kamtſchatka and Siberia. This animal moſtly ſupplies the wants of the Laplanders and Greenlanders; ſerving them as Horſes, to draw their ſledges over the icy lakes and ſnowy mountains, which they do with incredible rapidity. Like the Cow, they yield all the commodities of milk, cheeſe, and butter; and, as Sheep, they furniſh them with a warm, though homely, clothing. The fleſh ſerves them for food, their tendons for bowſtrings, and, when ſplit, for thread. So that from this Quadruped alone, they derive as many advantages as we do from ſeveral. The height of a full-grown Rein-deer is about four feet ſix inches. There cannot be a ſtronger proof of the diſpenſation of Divine Providence, than in the food which is provided for this animal, when the ſnow-clad face of his country ſeems to threaten him with famine. When not a blade of verdure can be found, on heath, valley, or mountain, trees, bounteouſly affording a black moſs, proves to him a moſt ample ſuſtenance. In the preſervation

preſervation of this animal, the Laplanders themſelves are much intereſted; as, independent of their laborious ſervices, the fleſh of the Rein-deer is alſo their principal food.

WHAT a contraſt do theſe northern countries afford, when compared with thoſe of our more clement and fertile climates! The Laplander is obliged to depend on the Rein-deer for food, clothing, and conveyance, while we have almoſt the whole range of Nature for our accommodation. Should not this advantage alone excite in us ſuch a ſenſe of ſuperior happineſs, as to render us ever grateful to that Providence, whoſe diſtinguiſhed bounties we enjoy?

WE have to obſerve, that the figure of this animal was accurately delineated from a Rein-deer, now in the poſſeſſion of a gentleman, near Newmarket.

THE STAG.

THE colour of this animal is generally of a reddiſh brown, with ſome black in the face, and a black liſt down the hinder part of the neck, and between the ſhoulders. The Stag is very delicate in his food; and, during the winter and ſpring, ſeldom drinks. They go about

about eight months with young, but ſeldom produce more than one. They breed in May, when they carefully conceal their young in the moſt ſecret thickets. This precaution is wiſely dictated to them, from their being expoſed to ſo many formidable enemies, ſuch as the Wolf, Dog, Eagle, Falcon, Oſprey, and all animals of the Cat kind. But the Stag himſelf is the greateſt enemy to the young of his ſpecies; inſomuch, that the Hind, which is the female of the Stag, accompanies the Faun during the ſummer, to preſerve it from his depredations. Amongſt all the enemies of this creature, Man ſeems to be the greateſt; for in every age, and every country, the human ſpecies have taken delight in the chaſe of it. Thoſe who firſt hunted it from neceſſity, continued it afterwards both for health and amuſement. Originally, the beaſts of chaſe were the ſole poſſeſſors of this iſland; they knew no other conſtraint than the limits of the ocean, nor acknowledged any particular maſter. But, when the Saxons eſtabliſhed the Heptarchy, they were reſerved by each Sovereign for his own particular diverſion. In thoſe uncivilized ages, hunting and war were the only employments of the

Great; for their active and uncultivated minds felt no pleaſure but in rapine or violence.

THE other ſpecies of this kind are, the Fullo, Virginian, Porcine, Roebuck, Mexican, and Grey Deer.

STAGS are ſtill found wild in the Highlands of Scotland, but their ſize is ſmaller than thoſe of England. They are likewiſe to be ſeen on the Moors bordering on Cornwall and Devonſhire; and on the Mountains of Kerry, in Ireland, where they greatly embelliſh the pictureſque, romantic, and magnificent ſcenery, of the Lake of Killarney.

THE FEMALE TIBET.

THIS creature, which is the female of the Muſk, gives name to the kingdom of Tibet, a province in China, where it is found, between the latitude of 45 and 60 degrees. Theſe animals naturally inhabit the mountains that are covered with pines, delight in ſolitude,

and avoid mankind: when purſued, they aſcend the higheſt mountains, which are inacceſſible to men or dogs. It is very timid, and has ſuch a quick ſenſe of hearing, as to diſcover an enemy at a very great diſtance. The celebrated drug, called *Muſk*, is produced from the male only, and is found in a bag about the ſize of a hen's egg, on the belly, which has two ſmall crevices through which it paſſes. This drug, when firſt preſſed out of the bag, appears like a brown fat matter; but it is greatly adulterated by the hunters and dealers, in order to increaſe its weight. Theſe animals are ſo numerous, as to have afforded *Tavernier* 7673 muſk bags, in one journey which he made, of only three years. Thoſe of Muſcovy are reckoned good, though thoſe found in the kingdom of Tibet are moſt valuable. The Ruſſians and Tartars eat the fleſh of the male, notwithſtanding its ſtrong taſte. Muſk was formerly in great eſteem as a perfume; but having been ſince found of great utility in medicine, it is ſeldom uſed for any thing elſe. This animal is likewiſe found in the Brazils, in India, and in Guinea.

THE DROMEDARY.

THIS is the moſt temperate of all animals; but this diſpoſition ariſes more from neceſſity, than from choice or natural moderation. He is ſo admirably formed to croſs the parched deſarts, that he will travel eight days without being thirſty. His hard hoofs are particularly

adapted to travel on the ſands of his native wilds. They are the moſt uſeful beaſts of burthen in Arabia, none other being able to bear their loads, or endure the want of drink ſo long; to enable them to do which, Nature has provided them with a fifth ſtomach, which ſerves as a reſervoir, from whence they draw ſufficient to quench their thirſt. Camels have been ſometimes killed, in hopes of finding water to ſlake the parched thirſt of the traveller. They are chiefly employed in aſſiſting the caravans; and as the deſarts they croſs afford little more than the coarſeſt weeds, they prefer them to the choiceſt paſture. He lives forty or fifty years; is about ſix feet and a half high, and has calloſities on each knee, which greatly eaſe him when he kneels down to depoſit, or take up his load. A large Camel will carry 12 cwt.

THE difference between a Camel and a Dromedary is, that the former has two bunches on his back, the latter only one. There are alſo the Arabian Camel, and the Llama Camel of America. Camel-hair is imported in great quantities [illegible] the uſe of painting.

ANIMALS

ANIMALS of the HOG-KIND.

IN this kind, animals ſeem to unite in thoſe differences which ſeparate others. They reſemble the Horſe kind in their long heads, ſingle ſtomachs, and the number of their teeth, which are forty-four. Their cloven feet, and the poſition of the inteſtines, are ſimilar to thoſe of the Cow kind. And, in their carnivorous appetite, numerous progeny, and chewing the cud, they reſemble the claw-footed kind.

THE HOG.

THE Hog, in his nature, blends the rapacious with the peaceful kind; for, though he is furniſhed with arms ſufficient to terrify moſt, as well as to put the braveſt at defiance, he is inoffenſive to all.

He is the moſt impure of all Quadrupeds; has a moſt inſatiate appetite, and is of a very ſluggiſh diſpoſition. He may be compared to a miſer, who, while living is uſeleſs and rapacious, but when dead is conſidered a public benefit, by diffuſing thoſe riches he had not ſpirit to enjoy while living. The brutality of the Hog is ſuch, that they frequently devour their own offſpring; and, contrary to all other domeſticated animals, when impelled by hunger, they will even devour infants. It is ſaid to be more perfect in the internal formation than any other domeſtic animal. The thickneſs of his hide, and the coarſeneſs of his hair, renders him inſenſible to blows. He is naturally ſtupid, drowſy, and inactive; and, if undiſturbed, will ſpend half his time in ſleep, from which ſtate he never rouſes himſelf but to gratify his voracious appetite, which, if ſufficiently fated with food, would cauſe his body to become too heavy for his legs to ſupport; it would ſtill, however, continue feeding, either kneeling or lying. A very remarkable inſtance of the voracious diſpoſition of this animal, is at this time to be ſeen in London, in a Warwickſhire Hog, which, though but little more than three

years

years old, meaſures nine feet ten inches in length, five feet ten inches round the neck, and eight feet five inches in girth. His weight is ten hundred, two quarters, and twenty-four pounds. His chief food is barley-meal and potatoes, which he eats while laying on his ſide; but what is more remarkable of this ſurpriſing animal is, that he never drinks.

THE Hog is reſtleſs at every change of weather, and greatly agitated when the wind is high. He is ſubject to all the diſeaſes incident to intemperance. When permitted to extend his thread of life, he will live to eighteen or twenty years. The Sow goes four months, and will often produce fifteen young at a litter.

THE TAJACU, PECARY, or MUSK-HOG, of South America, has no tail; the navel is on its back; when wounded, it will call its tribe, which are never ſatisfied but in the deſtruction of their antagoniſts or themſelves.

OF the Hog, there are, the Guinea, Chineſe, Ethiopian, Indian, Hog-Rabbit, and Hog-Cow.

THE RHINOCEROS.

THIS extraordinary creature inhabits Bengal, Siam, Cochin-China, Quangſi, the iſlands of Java and Sumatra, Congo, Angola, Ethiopia, and the country as low as the Cape. It is next to the Elephant in ſize and ſtrength, and has a horn growing on his noſe two feet long.

long. It being our firſt pride to dedicate to Truth, we purpoſely omit many fabulous accounts given of this animal. Unleſs offended, they are very harmleſs. The fleſh is ſaid to be wholeſome. From its having only one horn, though ſome have been found in Africa with two, this beaſt muſt certainly be the Unicorn of Holy Writ, and the ancients. The ſkin is impenetrable to a muſquet ball. Being ſlow and unwieldy in its motions, Nature has provided him with a horn, ſo ſtrong, ſolid, and pointed, as to enable him to inflict the moſt deadly wounds. Many medicinal virtues are alſo aſcribed to this horn, of which cups are frequently made.

THIS animal is ſo remarkable in form, that, words not being capable of accurately deſcribing it, we have been particularly careful to have the moſt correct likeneſs that could be poſſibly obtained.

HIS ſcent is moſt exquiſite. He runs in a direct line, his ſight not permitting him to ſee any thing placed in an oblique direction. Tobacco is his favourite food.

The

The horn was formerly uſed by Princes, as a cup, in order to detect what poiſon might be preſented to them; for, when any deadly drug is poured on it, it is aſſerted that it will immediately break into pieces. There is, alſo, another power attributed to this horn, which is, that wine, poured into cups made of it, will riſe, boil, and ferment.

THIS animal was known to the Romans in the moſt early ages, and was among thoſe of the Prænestine pavement. Ariſtotle, who aſſerts it to have but one horn, calls it the Oxyx, and the Indian Aſs. Auguſtus introduced a Rhinoceros in an exhibition, which he made on account of his victory over Cleopatra. See Mythology and Roman Hiſtory.

THE HIPPOPOTAME, OR SEA-HORSE.

THE Hippopotame is as large and as formidable as the Rhinoceros. The male has been found ſeventeen feet in length, fifteen feet in circumference, and ſeven feet in height; the legs are three feet long, and the head nearly four. Haſſelquiſt ſays, the hide alone is a load for

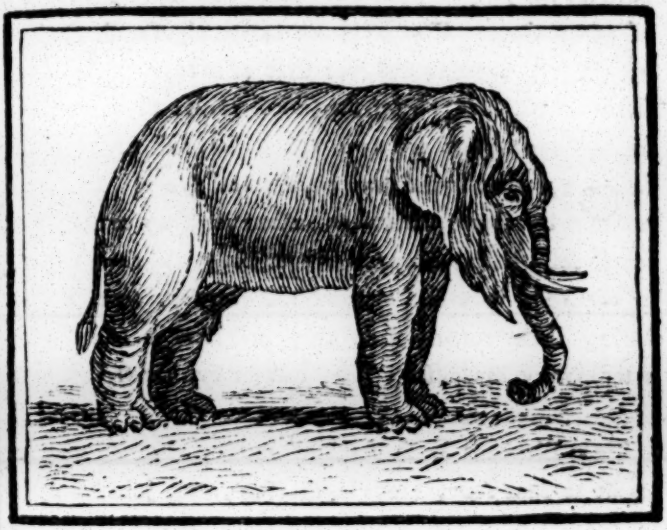
for a Camel. Its jaws extend about two feet, with four cutting-teeth in each, which are twelve inches in length. The teeth of the Sea-horſe are in great eſtimation among miniature painters, on account of their never loſing their primitive whiteneſs; a quality which the tooth of an Elephant does no poſſeſs. The ſkin is ſo thick as to reſiſt the edge of a ſword or ſabre. Contrary to all other amphibious animals, its feet are not webbed. In figure it is between the Ox and the Hog; and is found near lakes and rivers, from the Niger, to the Cape of Good Hope, in Africa.

This animal purſues its prey with great rapidity in the water, under which it will remain thirty or forty minutes. They do great injury to the African plantations. Dampier ſays they are ſo ſtrong, that he has ſeen one overturn a boat with ſix men in it; notwithſtanding which, they are inoffenſive to all except their natural prey. A convincing proof that Providence has formed the ſtrongeſt animals to be moſt harmleſs! They never leave the mouth of the freſh-water rivers. The female brings forth her young, which is a ſingle offſpring,

offspring, on land. They are taken in pit-falls, and have been often tamed. Their fleſh, which is as delicate as veal, is ſold, like other meat, in the public market.

THIS animal is the Behemoth of Job. It was known to the Romans, and introduced by Auguſtus among other foreign animals that graced his triumph over Cleopatra.

IT was worſhipped by the Egyptians, at the city of Papremis, as a ſuperſtitious caution of avoiding any affront to this animal, which they feared might be the caſe, if they refuſed him that deification with which they had honoured ſo many other ſavage beaſts.



THE ELEPHANT.

THE Elephant is reckoned the largeſt of all land animals, and, next to Man, the moſt ſagacious. They grow from ſeven to fifteen feet in height; and, notwithſtanding their unwieldy bulk, they will ſwim. The trunk with which Nature has provided them, and which anſwers

anſwers the purpoſe of hands to feed themſelves, is formed of many rings. The eyes are extremely ſmall, the legs very ſhort, and the tail like that of a Hog. The feet, though undivided, have five hoofs round their margins. In the upper jaw are two vaſt tuſks, of ſix or ſeven feet long, from which we obtain our ivory. In droves nothing is more formidable; wherever they march, the foreſt falls before them. When they are thus united, or enraged, it would require an army to repel them; during their rutting-time they are always ſeized with a temporary madneſs. They cannot live far from water.

The Elephant is ſo fond of muſic, that he may be learnt to beat time, move in meaſure, and join his voice in concert with the inſtruments. In Africa it ſtill retains its natural liberty. No animal, when tamed, is more courteous, obedient, and affectionate. It kneels to receive its rider. They will draw carriages and ſhipping; and frequently carry cannon, and ſmall towers with ſoldiers in them, to battle, with great courage and perſeverance. They ſleep ſtanding. Many have been known to live from 120 to 130 years. The Africans, who

who take them in pit-falls, very often eat their fleſh. A ſlight wound behind the ear proves fatal to them.

THE following is a remarkable inſtance of its ſenſe, and love of glory: an Elephant, being directed to force a large veſſel into the water, was found too weak; on which the maſter, ſarcaſtically, deſired the keeper to take away the lazy beaſt, and bring another. The poor animal was ſo affected at the reflection, that he inſtantly repeated his efforts, fractured his ſkull, and expired.

LET not Man boaſt of *his* attachment to glory, ſince he is thus equalled by the Brute Creation in the moſt eminent examples.

ANIMALS of the MONKEY KIND.

THE Ape, or Monkey Claſs, is diſtinguiſhed from all others by their ſimilitude to Man. They have hands inſtead of paws; their eye-lids, lips, and breaſts, greatly reſemble thoſe of the human race; while their internal ſtructure bears the like conformation. We recommend, therefore, to thoſe who make their perſons the principal object of attention, to conſider their affinity to this part of the Brute Creation, to induce them to cultivate thoſe mental qualifications, which can alone diſtinguiſh them from the inferior claſſes of beings!

IN the well-known ſtory of *Peter the Wild Boy*, we ſee the importance of the cultivation of our infant faculties. This boy was found by George I. in the woods of Germany, and brought to England in the year 1700, when he

was

was ſuppoſed to be about ten or twelve years old; at which time his agility in climbing trees is ſaid to have been ſurpriſing. He muſt have been loſt, or left in the woods in his early childhood, perhaps ſoon after able to walk; however it might have happened, his infant impreſſions of ſociety were loſt, and his ſubſequent ſentiments, being dictated by his ſavage ſituation, having no opportunity of learning and practiſing ſpeech, he continued till his death a mere *Ourang-Outang*. He could break or cleave wood, draw water, or threſh in a barn; but his rude, narrow mind could never be enlarged, principally owing to his not being able to acquire the power of ſpeech. This is ſufficient to ſhow what *we* ſhould be, were we left to ourſelves, and what we owe to the experience of former ages, for inſtilling into us a proper EDUCATION, as our faculties expand to maturity.

THE Monkey tribe are lively, active, full of chatter, frolic, and grimace. Indeed their actions, as well as their form, ſeem deſigned by Nature to burleſque the ignorant part of our ſpecies. In general they are fierce, untameable, dirty, and diſhoneſt. Their greateſt pleaſure is to be

be perpetually ſtealing, and hiding their thefts. Woods and trees are their chief habitations, where they feed on fruits, leaves, and inſects. Such is their activity, that they will leap from tree to tree, even when loaded with young. Being a ſociable animal, they go in companies or tribes, for the different ſpecies never mix with each other. Serpents will purſue them to the tops of trees, where they frequently devour them whole.

ALTHOUGH they are not carnivorous, they will, to gratify their propenſity to miſchief, rob birds-neſts, both of their eggs and young. In countries where Apes abound, the feathered tribe diſplay great ſagacity in building their neſts as far as poſſible beyond their reach.

As theſe creatures differ too much in their ſpecies, for a general deſcription to afford an adequate idea of their nature, we ſhall particularly notice the following.

OURANG-

OURANG OUTANG, or *Wild Man of the Woods.*

THIS name is given to various animals that walk upright, but which have different proportions, and come from different countries. The Ourang Outang greatly reſembles in countenance a toothleſs old woman, and approaches nearer to the human race than any other ani-

mal whatever. This creature, indeed, correſponds ſo nearly in form to Man, that many have expected to find the ſame correſpondence. But the contrary being found, diſproves that ſceptical aſſertion, that matter forms the nature of the mind. It proves, likewiſe, that the moſt curiouſly conſtructed bodies are formed in vain, unleſs a correſponding ſoul is infuſed, to direct and controul its operations.

Dr. Tyson gives the following deſcription of one of theſe animals brought from Angola, in Africa.

"The body was covered with black hair, which "greatly reſembles human hair; and it was longeſt in "the ſame parts, as in the human ſpecies. The face "was like the human face, except the forehead being "larger, and the head rounder. The jaws were not "ſo prominent as in Monkies, but flat, like thoſe of "a Man. The ears, teeth, and, in a word, the whole "of this creature, at firſt view, preſented a Human "figure. And, as he ſo nearly approached Man in his "figure, his diſpoſition was exceedingly fond, more gentle,

" gentle, and harmleſs, than the Monkey race are found " in general. Thoſe who were familiar with him in " the ſhip, he would moſt tenderly embrace, open their " boſoms, and claſp his hands about them. And, al- " though there were other Monkies on board, he never " aſſociated with them; as if he conſidered them, as " indeed they are, claſſes of beings much inferior to " him in the ſcale of Creation. Being accuſtomed to " clothes, he grew ſo fond of them as to endeavour to " dreſs and undreſs himſelf. Such parts as he could " not put on, he took to ſome of the company on " board, to have their aſſiſtance. Like any human " creature, he would go to bed, place his head on the " pillow, and cover himſelf with the clothes."

One of theſe animals was ſhown in London, in 1738, that would reach himſelf a chair, drink tea, which, if too hot, he would cool in the ſaucer; he would, likewiſe, cry like a child, and be exceedingly unhappy in the abſence of his keeper.

It inhabits the interior parts of Africa, the iſland of Sumatra, Borneo, and Java.

The Ourang Outang is ſolitary in its nature, and ſubſiſts chiefly on fruit and nuts. The larger ſort are ſo ſtrong, as to be capable of overpowering the ſtrongeſt Man. And, as Nature has placed them among the fierceſt of animals, they are provided with ſufficient courage, cunning, and dexterity, to drive away even Elephants from them. They beat them with their fiſts and pieces of wood, and will even throw ſtones at thoſe that offend them. They ſometimes carry away young negroes, eſpecially the females, whom they have been known to treat with the greateſt tenderneſs. Le Broſſe aſſerts, that he knew a woman of Loango, who had lived three years among them.

THE PIGMY APE.

THIS animal has a flat face, with ears like thoſe of a Man. It is as large as a Cat, and has olive-brown hair. It ſubſiſts chiefly on fruit, ants, and other inſects. In order to find ants, they aſſemble in troops, and turn over every ſtone in ſearch of them. Africa is the coun-

try where they are moſtly found. In animal exhibitions, the Pigmy Ape is not uncommon. Their diſpoſition is very gentle and tractable. The hair on their head ſeems to come over the forehead like the cowl of a monk. Its hands are remarkably ſimilar to thoſe of human nature. Of all the various ſpecies, this, being the moſt harmleſs, is moſt ſought after by thoſe who are fond of making ſuch creatures the object of their attention and amuſement.

THE Long-armed Ape, called, by M. Buffon, the Gibbon, is a moſt extraordinary animal. It walks erect, has no tail, and has ſuch long arms, that when he ſtands upright, he can touch the ground with his hands.

THE Tufted Ape, has a head ſo long, that it meaſures fourteen inches. It has a long upright tuft of hair on the top of the head, and another under the chin.

THERE are alſo, the Maggot, or Barbary Ape; and the Simia Porcaria, of which latter there is a drawing in the Muſeum.

THE

THE BABOON.

THIS animal is about three feet and a half high, has a thick body, ſtrong limbs, and long canine teeth. The tail is thick, crooked, and ſeven inches long. It has a pouch in each cheek, where it depoſits its proviſions; which ſhows that it is adapted to live in countries where

it is liable to meet with a temporary ſcarcity; Nature never beſtowing any particularity on a being, but in conformity with the neceſſity of rendering it capable of living wherever it is placed. Thus ariſes the great difference in Animated Nature, from the variety of climates, and not, as ſome have falſely and unphiloſophically imagined, to diſtinguiſh every part of the Creation from each other.

THE Baboon ſometimes walks erect. Inſtead of nails, the hands and feet are armed with claws, to adapt it for climbing, and render it formidable to thoſe natural enemies it meets with, where it is obliged to ſeek its ſubſiſtance. Forbin relates, that in Siam, when the men are at harveſt-work, whole troops of them will attack a village, where the women are obliged to defend themſelves with clubs, and other weapons, from their brutal inſults. Whatever they undertake, they execute with ſurpriſing ſkill and regularity. When they attack an orchard, they do it with all the ſkill and precaution of an army in a ſiege. They have their ſentinels, and their lines are moſt orderly formed. The female produces but one, which ſhe carries in her arms.

BABOONS are not carnivorous; they feed upon fruits, corn, and roots. Their internal parts have a greater reſemblance to thoſe of Quadrupeds than Mankind.

THE Mandril, mentioned by Smith, is a native of the Gold Coaſt. It grows four or five feet high, and more frequently walks erect than on all fours. When diſpleaſed, it is ſaid to weep like a child.

THE Wanderer is a ſmall Baboon, remarkable for having a long white head of hair, and a large beard of the ſame colour.

THE Little Baboon, and the Pigtail Baboon, are all that remain beſide of this ſpecies.

OF Monkies, there are an innumerable quantity; we have only room, therefore, to name them as follows: Dog-faced, Lion-tailed, Hare-lipped, Spelted, Green, White-eyelid, Negro, Chineſe, Varied, Dove, Tawny, Winking, Goat, Four-fingered, Weeping, Orange, Horned, Antiqua, Fox-tailed, Great-eared, Silky, and Little Lion.

ANIMALS of the DOG KIND.

THE Dog, next to the Elephant, is the moſt intelligent and friendly to Man, of all Quadrupeds. It ſeems beyond the power of ill uſage to alienate his affections from Human Nature. His beauty, ſwiftneſs, vivacity, courage, fidelity, docility, and watchfulneſs, render him moſt endearing to Man. When in his domeſtic ſtate, his firſt ambition, and greateſt ſatisfaction, is to pleaſe: he is more humble through affection than ſervility: he waits his orders, and moſt implicitly obeys them. Friendly without intereſt, and grateful for the ſlighteſt favours, he ſooner forgets injuries than benefits; his only aim is to ſerve, never to diſpleaſe.

NUMBERS of Dogs are found wild, or rather without maſters, in Cougs, Lower Ethiopia, and towards the Cape of

of Good Hope. They go in great packs, and attack Lions, Tigers, and Elephants, by all of which they are frequently killed. Athough there are wild Dogs now in South America, yet this animal was unknown to the new continent, before it was carried there from Europe. This ſhows, that the Brute Creation, like the Human Species, may degenerate from a ſtate of refined ſociety, to that of a ſavage nature. In their wild ſtate, they breed in holes, like rabbits; when taken young, they ſo attach themſelves to mankind, as never to deſert their maſters, or return to their ſavage companions.

The Dog is the only animal whoſe fidelity is unſhaken, and almoſt the only one that knows his name, and anſwers to the domeſtic call. No other animal complains aloud for the abſence, or loſs of his maſter, or finds ſo readily his way home, after he has been taken to a diſtant place.

Of all animals, the Dog is moſt liable to change in its form; the different breeds are ſo numerous, that it is impoſſible for the moſt minute obſerver to deſcribe them; food, climate, and education, all tend to cauſe deviations

in ſize, hair, ſhape, and colour. The ſame Dog becomes a different animal, if taken to a different climate from that in which he was bred. Nothing, therefore, but their internal ſtructure, diſtinguiſhes this ſpecies from every other. They may be ſaid to be all, originally, from the ſame ſtock; but which of the kinds can claim the immediate deſcent, is not yet determined.

THE different ſpecies of this animal, in its domeſtic ſtate, are, the Shepherd's Dog, Hound, Spaniel, Greyhound, Daniſh Dog, Maſtiff, Bull Dog, Pug Dog, Iriſh Greyhound, Terrier, Blood-hound, Leymmer, Tumbler, Lap-dog, Small Daniſh Dog, Harlequin Dog, Cur Dog, Shark, Turkiſh, and Lion Dogs.

THE MASTIFF.

THIS very uſeful and ineſtimable animal we have choſen, as firſt worthy our particular notice, it being the largeſt, and of the moſt eſſential ſervice to Man.

THE Maſtiff poſſeſſes great ſize and ſtrength; has a large head, with hanging lips, and a noble countenance.

This creature is ſo formidable, that, Caius ſays, the Romans reckoned three of them a match for a Bear, and four for a Lion. Great-Britain was ſo famous for Maſtiffs, that the Roman Emperors appointed an officer to ſuperintend their breed, and ſend them, at a proper age, to Rome, for the combats in the Amphitheatre. In England, they are uſually kept to guard yards, houſes, and other places.

In order to try the ſtrength of this creature, James I. cauſed three of them to be looſed on a Lion, which was vanquiſhed by their ſtrength and courage. Two of the Dogs were, indeed, diſabled in the combat, but the third obliged the Lion to ſeek his ſafety by flight. From the ſize, ſtrength, and courage, of this noble creature, we may preſume, that Nature eſpecially formed him for the guardianſhip of mankind; and, being the particular growth of this country, we ought to hold ourſelves greatly indebted to Providence, for ſo partial and invaluable a bounty which is beſtowed upon us for our accommodation.

THE HYÆNA.

THE Hyæna is nearly as large as a Wolf, which it reſembles in the head and body. It is more ſavage and untameable than any other Quadruped, and is continually in a ſtate of rage and rapacity; unleſs when feeding, it is always growling. Its gliſtening eyes, erect briſtles on the

the back, and teeth always appearing, render its aſpect truly terrific. Its horrible howl reſembles a human voice in diſtreſs.

THE Hyæna, from its ſize, is the moſt terrible and ferocious of all other Quadrupeds. It defends itſelf againſt the Lion, is a match for the Panther, and frequently overcomes the Ounce. This obſcure and ſolitary animal chiefly inhabits Aſiatic Turkey, Syria, Perſia, and Barbary. Caverns of mountains, cliffs of rocks, and ſubterraneous dens, are its chief lurking places. The manſions of the dead are ſubject to his violations; for, like the Jackall, the putrid contents are, to him, the moſt dainty food. It preys upon flocks and herds; but, when theſe and other animal prey fails, it will eat the roots of plants, and tender roots of palm-trees.

THE ſuperſtitious Arabs, when they kill a Hyæna, always bury its head, leſt it ſhould be applied to magical purpoſes, as the neck was formerly by the Theſſalian ſorcereſs: but the unenlightened Arab muſt be excuſed for this weak opinion, when it is conſidered, that the

moſt refined and learned ancients, thought the Hyæna had the power of charming the ſhepherds, and, as it were, rivetting them to the place where they ſtood.

Its voice is a hoarſe, diſagreeable combination, of growling, crying, and roaring.

The fabulous relation of Pliny, reſpecting this creature, is almoſt too abſurd to mention: we, however, relate it, juſt to ſhow how much he debaſed the hiſtory of Nature with his fanciful impoſitions. He ſays, that Hyænas have been known, not only to imitate the human voice, but to call ſome perſon by his name, who, coming out, was immediately devoured by the ſubtle cruelty of this creature.

In Guinea, Ethiopia, and the Cape, there is another ſpecies of this animal, which is called by Pennant, the Spotted Hyæna.

THE WOLF.

THIS animal very much reſembles the Dog, both externally and internally, having a long head, pointed noſe, ſharp erect ears, long buſhy tail, long legs, large teeth, and being covered with longiſh hair. It is of a pale brown colour, tinged with yellow; though in Canada, it is

is found both black and white. The principal feature which diſtinguiſhes its viſage from that of the Dog is, that its eyes, which are fierce and fiery, ſlant upwards, in direction with the noſe.

THOUGH ſo near in reſemblance to the Dog, his nature is entirely different, poſſeſſing all his ill qualities, without preſerving any of the good ones. Theſe animals entertain ſuch a natural hatred to each other, that they never meet without fighting or retreating. If the Wolf proves victorious, he devours his prey; but the Dog, more generous, is content with victory.

THEY are naturally cruel and cowardly; and will fly the preſence of Man, unleſs preſſed by hunger, when they prowl by night, in vaſt droves, deſtroying any perſons they meet; and, ſuch is their predilection for human fleſh, that, when they have once taſted it, they ever after attack the ſhepherd in preference to his flock.

THE Wolf, of all beaſts, has the moſt rapacious appetite for animal fleſh, which Nature has furniſhed it with

with various methods of gratifying; notwithſtanding which, it moſt generally dies of hunger; which is eaſily accounted for, when we conſider its long proſcription, together with the reward formerly offered for its head, which obliged it to fly from human habitation, and ſeek refuge in woods and foreſts.

Wolves were ſo numerous in Yorkſhire, in the reign of Athelſtan, that it was found neceſſary to build a retreat at Flixton, to defend paſſengers from their ferocity. In France, Spain, and Italy, they are ſtill greatly infeſted with this animal. They are alſo to be found in Aſia, Africa, and America; but not ſo high as the Arctic Circle.

The female goes about fourteen weeks with young, and brings from five to nine at a litter.

ANIMALS of the CAT KIND.

THIS Claſs is particularly diſtinguiſhed by their ſharp claws, which they can extend or conceal, at pleaſure. They lead a ſolitary, ravenous life; for moſt of them, not only ſeek their food alone, but, excepting certain ſeaſons, are enemies to each other. The Dog, Wolf, and Bear, will ſometimes live on vegetables; but the Lion, Tiger, Leopard, and all of the Cat kind, feed only upon fleſh.

THESE animals are, in general, fierce, cruel, ſubtle, and rapacious: it is probable, however, that the moſt ferocious may be rendered domeſtic. Lions have drawn the chariots of conquerors, and Tigers have tended thoſe herds, which they now deſtroy. All animals of the Cat kind,

kind, though they differ in ſize and colour, are allied to each other, in artifice, ferocity, and rapacity. To ſee one, is to know them all. Human aſſiduity can effect many changes in other creatures; but, in this kind, all attempts to alter their immutable nature, prove abortive. The Dog, Cow, and Sheep, vary according to their country, but the Lion and Tiger are the ſame, in whatever clime they are found.

THIS Claſs of animals is remarkable for having round heads, ſhort noſes, and long whiſkers on the upper lip; they have alſo thirty very formidable teeth, which are not, however, ſo well adapted for chewing their food, as for tearing their prey: this ſhows, that Nature has formed every creature according to the means they are obliged to adopt to obtain their ſubſiſtance. Theſe creatures, being carnivorous, have teeth particularly adapted to the purpoſe; their claws are likewiſe ſharp, and ſtrong in the gripe, ſo as to enable them to hold their prey beyond every poſſibility of eſcape. Not being capable of running faſt, they are formed with a quickneſs of ſcent to diſcern their prey, and feet ſo ſoft, that when they

they walk, they may cauſe no ſound which might, prematurely, alarm the animal they are going to ſurpriſe.

ALTHOUGH poſſeſſed of all theſe fierce, and powerful qualities, they are naturally too timid to attack any animal poſſeſſed of more ſtrength and courage than themſelves. When they meet with an animal of equal force, they always retreat, and decline coming to a conteſt.

THE LION.

WHAT diſtinguiſhes this animal's appearance from others, is chiefly his head, neck, chin, and ſhoulders, being covered with long, ſhaggy hair, like a mane. It has very ſtrong limbs, and a long tail, with a tuft of hair at the end. The colour is tawny, except on the belly,

belly, where it inclines to white. The length of the largeſt Lion, from the noſe to the tail, is about eight feet. the Lioneſs is leſs, and has no mane.

CLIMATE little affects this noble animal. He ſubſiſts as well under the frigid pole, as beneath the torrid zone; while moſt other animals are adapted to live only in particular latitudes.

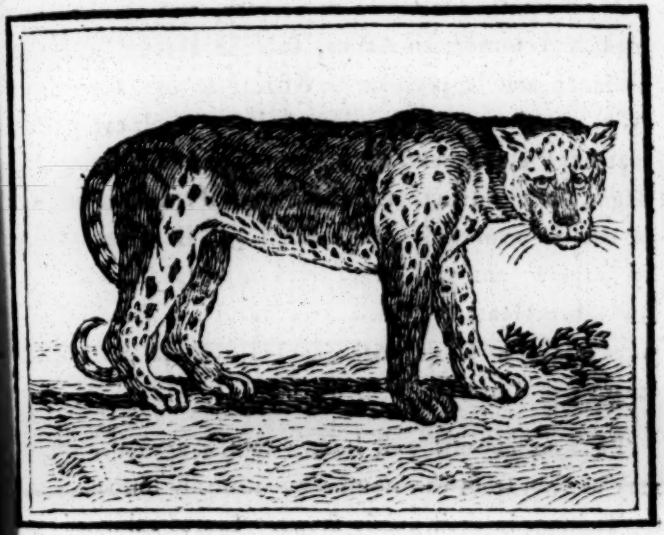
THE Lion abounds chiefly in the torrid zone, where they are the largeſt, and moſt tremendous. The burning ſun, and arid ſoil, ſeem to inflame their nature to the greateſt height of ſavage ferocity. In the colder regions, ſuch as Mount Atlas, they are much inferior, both in ſize, ſtrength, and ſpirit. The torrid zone, affording but few rivers or fountains, cauſes him to live in a perpetual fever, which excites a ſort of madneſs, fatal to every animal he meets. It is happy, therefore, that this ferocious creature, as travellers in general relate, are daily declining in number. But, perhaps, were they to be entirely extirpated, other animals, on which they prey, might grow too numerous for the ſafety and welfare of the

the inhabitants of thoſe dreadful countries. We had, therefore, better leave the proportioning the number of this animal to Him, who meaſures all things by the ſcale of His unerring Wiſdom and Providence.

THE eyes of a Lion are always bright and fiery, even in death. The paws, teeth, and tongue, perfectly reſemble thoſe of a Cat; and, in their internal parts, there is ſcarcely any difference.

HIS anger being noble, his courage magnanimous, his diſpoſition grateful, and his conqueſts univerſal over all other animals, he is juſtly called the King of Beaſts.

WHEN hungry, he will attack any thing that comes in his way. His teeth are ſo ſtrong, that he breaks the bones of the ſtrongeſt animals, which he ſwallows with the fleſh. He requires about fifteen pounds of fleſh per day, and ſeldom touches any putrid body.



THE PANTHER.

THIS beaſt has been frequently miſtaken for the Tiger; which error aroſe from its being nearly of the ſame ſize, poſſeſſing the ſame diſpoſition to cruelty, and a general enmity to the animal creation. Its chief difference is in being ſpotted, and not ſtreaked as the Tiger.

THE

THE Panther is found in Barbary, and all the intermediate countries in Africa, that lie between that and Guinea; and is peculiar to Africa, as the Tiger is to Aſia. Although hunger impels it to attack every thing that has life, without diſtinction, yet it differs from the Tiger, in preferring, at other times, the fleſh of animals to that of mankind. Like the Tiger, it ſeizes its prey by ſurpriſe, and will climb trees in purſuit of Monkies, and other creatures which ſeek an aſylum there. It always retains its fierce, malevolent aſpect, and never ceaſes to growl or murmur.

THIS animal was well known to the ancients, which may be ſeen from the numbers continually introduced by the Romans in their public ſhows. Scarus exhibited 150 Panthers in one ſhow; Pompey the Great, 410; and Auguſtus, 420. Notwithſtanding which, they are now ſwarming in the ſouthern parts of Guinea.

OF the remaining animals of this kind, we ſhall ſelect the White Bear, and the Opoſſum.

THE

THE WHITE, OR POLAR BEAR.

THIS creature grows to a great ſize, and is the undiſputed maſter of Greenland and Spitzbergen. When our mariners land on thoſe regions of ice, theſe animals come down to view them, uncertain whether to attack or retreat. When ſhot at, or wounded, they endeavour to fly; but,

if they find themſelves incapable, their reſiſtance never ends but with their death. They live upon Seals, carcaſes of Whales, and ſuch human bodies as they can find, or make their prey. Companies of them are ſo daring, as to attack crews of armed men; and will even board ſmall veſſels. From their diſpoſition to reſiſt all invaſion, they ſeem formed by Nature to convince us, that this inhoſpitable clime was meant only for their poſſeſſion, and that it was never deſigned by Providence for the abode of the Human Species. They ſwim well, and dive with great agility. Battles frequently enſue between them and the Whales; in which the latter, from being attacked in their own element, are generally victorious. If, however, they can capture a young Whale, they are ſufficiently repaid for the danger of meeting the parent.

THE affection between the female and their young, is ſuch, that they prefer death to parting. The coldeſt part of the globe is allotted by Nature for the abode of this creature, as they are not to be found further ſouth than Newfoundland, unleſs they have been carried involuntarily by floating iſlands of ice, on which they had too raſhly ventured in ſearch of their prey.

THE

The fleſh of this animal is white, and has the taſte of mutton. The fat is melted for train-oil; and that which is extracted from the feet, is uſed medicinally. The liver is ſo very unwholeſome, that it endangered the lives of three ſailors who eat ſome of it when boiled.

Dr. Goldsmith relates, that when a Greenlander and his wife are paddling out at ſea, a White Bear will frequently jump into the boat, and be rowed to ſhore like any other paſſenger.

The OPOSSUM.

WHAT diſtinguiſhes this from all other animals, and has long excited the wonder of mankind, is a large pouch in the lower part of the belly of the female, in which the teats are lodged, and where the young are ſheltered as ſoon as they are brought forth; at which time they are blind,

blind, naked, ſmall, and imperfect. Nature, therefore, has, very providentially, provided them with this maternal aſylum, until they can perfect their being. But when they are grown ſtronger, they ſeek ſhelter here, as chickens under the wing of the hen; here they repoſe from fatigue, or ſeek their food when hungry. On theſe occaſions, the dam moſt readily opens her bag to receive them. The fleſh of the old Opoſſum is like that of a ſucking Pig; the Indian women dye its hair, and weave it into girdles. The ſkin has a very offenſive ſmell: the head, which is like that of the Fox, has fifty teeth; the eyes are black, lively, and placed upright; the ears large, broad, and tranſparent; the tail is partly covered with ſcales, and partly with hair, which is ſuppoſed to be that part of the young that cannot be concealed in the pouch, and which Nature, therefore, has provided with this armour. The feet reſemble hands, having five toes or fingers, with white crooked nails.

The tail of this animal greatly reſembles a Snake; by which it will ſuſpend itſelf on one tree, and, by ſwinging its body, throw itſelf among the branches of

another. It deſtroys poultry, ſucking the blood without devouring the fleſh; walks extremely ſlow, and, when overtaken, will feign itſelf dead.

It is a native of Virginia, Louiſiana, Mexico, Brazil, and Peru.

The other, leſs intereſting, animals of the Cat kind, are, the Domeſtic Cat, Wild Cat, Ounce, Tiger Cat, Lynx, Cougar, Siaguſh, Angora Cat, Serval, Black Bear, Brown Bear, Wolverine or Glutton, Raccoon, Badger, Marmoſe, Cayopolin, Phalanga, and Tarſier.

THE INDIAN MUSK,

IS a native of Ceylon, of an olive colour, and in length about ſeventeen inches. Its throat, breaſt, and belly, are white, the ſides and haunches ſpotted, and barred tranſverſely with white. It has large open ears, and a very ſhort tail.

ANIMALS of the WEASEL KIND.

THIS ſpecies is diſtinguiſhable from other carnivorous animals, by their long and ſlender bodies, which enable them to creep into very ſmall apertures after their prey. They are call vermin, from reſembling the worm in this particular. The form and diſpoſition of the claws differ from thoſe of the Cat kind, as they cannot either extend or contract them. They vary from the Dog kind, in being clothed with fur rather than hair; and differ both in diſpoſition and appearance. They are cruel, cowardly, and voracious; ſubſiſt moſtly by theft; and deſtroy all about them before they begin to feed. They ſuck the blood of every animal before they eat the fleſh.

OF the various individuals of this Species, we ſhall ſelect the moſt remarkable, beginning with

THE

THE CIVET.

THE Civet, like the reſt of the Weaſel kind, has a long ſlender body, ſhort legs, and an odorous matter exuding from the glands behind. It is much larger than Weaſels in general; being in length, from noſe to tail, two feet three inches, the tail fourteen inches, and the

body rather thick. It is moſtly of an aſh colour, ſpotted with black; has a long noſe, with whiſkers; and eyes that are black and beautiful.

THIS animal is a native of India, the Philippine Iſles, Guinea, Ethiopia, and Madagaſcar. The famous Drug, called *Muſk*, is produced from them. To procure which, thoſe who keep them provide a box for their habitation, and collect the Muſk, by ſcraping it three times a week. The male, if irritated, will yield moſt. When young, they are fed with millet pap, and a little fiſh or fleſh; but, when old, with raw fleſh principally. In their wild ſtate they prey on fowls.

ALTHOUGH a native of warm climates, it will live in temperate, and even in cold regions, if carefully defended from the weather. Great numbers are bred in Holland, where they afford conſiderable emolument to their owners. The Muſk of Amſterdam, being leſs adulterated than any other, is moſt eſteemed.

THE

THE BEAVER.

THE Beaver is the only Quadruped that has a flat broad tail, covered with ſcales, which ſerves it as a rudder in the water, and alſo as cart to carry materials for its building on land. The hind feet are webbed, but the fore feet are not, from the neceſſity of uſing them as

hands. The fore-part, in general, reſembles a Quadruped, and the hind part a fiſh. The teeth are formed like a ſaw, with which they cut the wood they uſe in building their huts, and damming the water out of them. The fur, which is of a deep cheſnut brown, is the moſt valuable material uſed in the hat manufactory. Its length, from noſe to tail, is about three feet; the tail is eleven inches long, and three broad.

In June and July, they form their ſocieties, of two and three hundred, which they continue all the reſt of the year. Wherever they meet, they fix their abode, which is always by the ſide of a lake or river. The ſagacity of this animal is truly worthy the conſideration of the Naturaliſt and Philoſopher, which it is impoſſible to conſider, without the greateſt humiliation to human pride. When we ſee a Beaver, with only its feet, teeth, and tail, capable of building a hut, as commodious for itſelf and young, as a cottage can be rendered to a peaſant, even with the aid of reaſon and mechanical tools, what is the boaſted ſuperiority of Man!

If they fix their ſtation by a river ſubject to floods, they build a dam or pier, which croſſes the ſtream, ſo as to form a piece of water; but, if they ſettle near a lake, not liable to inundation, they ſave themſelves this trouble. To form this dam or pier, they drive ſtakes of about five or ſix feet in length, wattling each row with twigs, and filling the interſtices with clay. That ſide next the water is ſloped, and the other perpendicular. The bottom is from ten to twelve feet thick, gradually diminiſhing to the top, which is but two or three feet at moſt. This dam is generally from eighty to an hundred feet in length. The greatneſs of the work, compared with the ſmallneſs of the architect, however aſtoniſhing, is not more wonderful than its firmneſs and ſolidity.

The houſes are erected near the ſhore, in the water collected by the dams. They are either round or oval, and are built on piles. The tops being vaulted, the inſide reſembles an oven, and the outſide a dome. The walls, which are two feet thick, are made of earth, ſtones, and ſticks, and plaiſtered with all the ſkill and excellence of the moſt expert maſon. Every houſe has two openings,

one into the water, and the other towards the land. Their height is about eight feet. From two to thirty Beavers inhabit each dwelling; and, in each pond, there are from ten to twenty-five houſes. They have each a bed of moſs; and are ſuch perfect epicures, that they daily regale on the choiceſt plants and fruits which the country affords.

THIS animal affords that celebrated reſinous ſubſtance, called *Caſtoreum*, which is mixed moſt ſucceſsfully in ſeveral hyſteric and cephalic medicines. An oil is likewiſe extracted from it, called *Oil of Caſtor*, which, while it remains in its liquid, unctious ſtate, is uſed for the cure of ſeveral diſorders.

THE PORCUPINE.

THIS animal is about two feet long, and fifteen inches in height. The body is covered with quills, from ten to fourteen inches long, and very ſharp at the points, growing as feathers in birds. The head, belly, and legs, are covered with ſtrong briſtles. Its whiſkers are long, and

the ears like thoſe of a Man. When irritated, its quills ſtand erect. The eyes are remarkably ſmall, being only about a quarter of an inch wide.

LIKE the Hedge-hog, theſe quills are rather for ſelf-defence than the purpoſe of attacking an enemy. The idea formerly entertained, that it darted its quills, is found to be erroneous; they only ſhed them when they moult; which, in ſome meaſure, ſhows their alliance to the Bird Creation, though not deſtined for flight, having neither wings nor feathers. The quills, being found a ſufficient defence againſt the moſt formidable animals, ſhow how powerful the weakeſt materials may be rendered, when under the ſkill and workmanſhip of Infinite Wiſdom.

A WOLF, it is ſaid, was once found dead, with ſome of the quills of the Porcupine ſticking in his mouth; no doubt but they muſt have ſtuck there when hunger induced him to the raſh attempt of devouring this ſelf-defended animal.

THE

THE Porcupine is generally deſcribed to be an inoffenſive animal, living entirely on fruits, roots, and vegetables; but ſome naturaliſts, particularly Dr. Goldſmith, aſſert, that they prey upon Serpents, with which they live in perpetual enmity. Their method of attacking them is deſcribed to be, that the Porcupine rolls itſelf on them, wounding them with its quills, until they expire, when they are immediately devoured by the victor.

IT is an inhabitant of India, Perſia, Paleſtine, and every part of Africa. Although not originally a native of Europe, it is found wild in Italy; in which place they have ſmaller creſts, and ſhorter quills, than thoſe of Aſia and Africa.

IN Rome, it is ſold for food in the public markets.

THE

THE SLOTH.

THERE are two kinds of this animal; one of which has two claws on each foot, and is without a tail; the other, three claws on each foot, with a tail; and are both deſcribed under the common appellation of the Sloth. It is about the ſize of a Badger, and has a coarſe fur, reſembling

reſembling dried graſs; the tail is exceedingly ſhort; and the mouth extends from ear to ear. The feet of this animal are ſo obliquely placed, that the ſoles ſcarcely ever touch the ground. The conſtruction of its limbs is ſo ſingular, that it can move only at the rate of about three yards in an hour. Thus, unleſs impelled by hunger, it is ſeldom induced to change its place.

THE Sloth inhabits many parts on the eaſtern ſide of South America. It is the meaneſt, and moſt ill-formed of animals. Leaves, and fruits of trees, are its chief food. It is a ruminating animal, for which purpoſe Nature has provided it with four ſtomachs.

ALTHOUGH it aſcends a tree with great difficulty, yet it cannot deſcend without forming itſelf into a ball, and dropping from the branches to the ground, where the ſhock cauſes it to remain for a conſiderable time in a perfect ſtate of inactivity. To travel from one tree to another, at the diſtance of one hundred yards, is, for this animal, a week's journey.

EVERY

Every effort which the Sloth makes to move, appears ſo painful and difficult, as to cauſe it to utter the moſt pitiful cry; which is likewiſe wiſely given it for its protection; for, being defenceleſs, as well as incapable of flight, it could never eſcape deſtruction, was it not that their cry is ſo hideous, and lamentable in its tone, as to cauſe every beaſt to avoid the ſound. How ought we to admire the Wiſdom and Providence of the Almighty, who, by the breath only of this defenceleſs animal, has raiſed a bulwark for its protection!

We ſhould do injuſtice to the Great Creator of the Univerſe, who never created any thing in vain, could we ſuppoſe any animal was ever ſo formed, as to be incapable of comfort; although the Sloth carries every appearance of miſery in its nature, there cannot be a doubt but it has ſatisfactions peculiarly ſuited to its ſtation.

THE ARMADILLO.

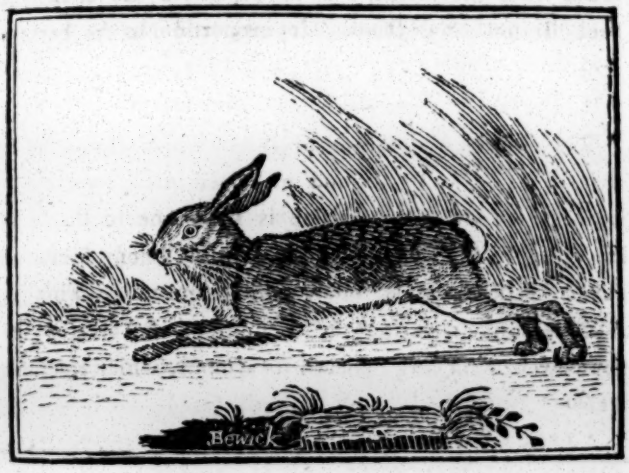
NATURE ſeems to have reſerved all the wonders of her power for thoſe remote countries, where Man is moſt ſavage, and Quadrupeds the moſt various. She ſeems to become more wonderful, in proportion, the further ſhe retires from human inſpection. But this, in reality, only ariſes

ariſes from the attempts of Man to rid the country of ſuch ſtrange productions, in proportion as he becomes more civilized.

THE Armadillo, which is covered with ſhells, at the firſt view, appears a round miſhapen maſs, with a long head, and ſhort tail. Its ſize is from one to three feet in length. Theſe ſhells, which reſemble a bony ſubſtance, cover the head, neck, ſides, rump, and tail. This natural defenſive covering, being jointed, the creature has the power of moving beneath its armour, which reſembles a coat of mail.

As theſe ſhells are only ſufficient to defend the Armadillo from a feeble enemy, and not equal to the reſiſtance of a powerful antagoniſt, Nature has furniſhed it with a method of incloſing its body within the covert of this armour. Thus, like the Hedgehog and Porcupine, it is ſecured from danger, without having recourſe to flight or reſiſtance, and becomes invulnerable while in the midſt of danger.

THE



THE HARE.

THIS timid and defenceleſs animal is another inſtance of the bountiful care of Providence towards mankind. The Hare not only ſupplies us with a delicacy for our table, and a covering for our heads, (the fur being manufactured into hats) but alſo affords us one of the moſt wholeſome of our rural diverſions.

IT

It is an inhabitant of moſt parts of Europe, Aſia, Egypt, Barbary, Japan, Ceylon, and North-America; but thoſe of Barbary, Spain, and Italy, are much ſmaller than ours. In Wales and France they are generally larger, though not of ſo fine a flavour.

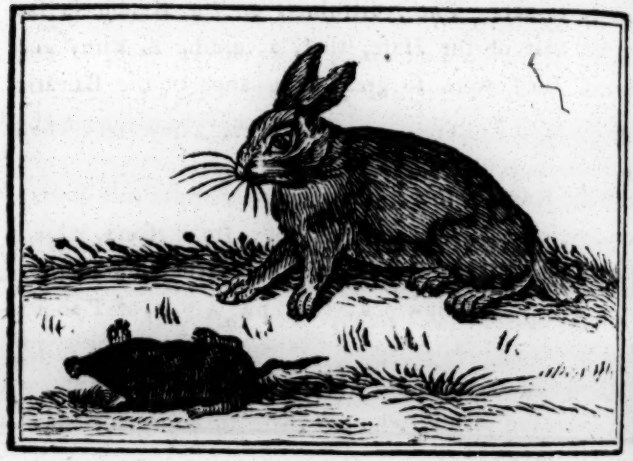
This ſolitary animal has, independent of Man, a hoſt of enemies, both in the animal and feathered tribes. The Fox, Polecat, Stote, and Weaſel, hunt them with ſuch unremitting perſeverance, that, notwithſtanding their ſwiftneſs, it is with great difficulty they eſcape their rapacious purſuit. The Weaſel will frequently faſten upon the neck of a Hare, while on her form, and hold there till it is quite dead, ſucking its blood while running. The Kite, Hawk, Owl, and many other birds of prey, are very deſtructive to young Leverets. This perſecuted animal, however, like the Rabbit, is ſo prolific, as to afford a plentiful ſupply to thoſe who protect it againſt the unlawful and deſtructive ſnares of the poacher.

The female goes thirty days with young, and brings forth from two to four at a time, with their eyes open; ſhe

ſhe breeds ſix or ſeven times a year, and ſuckles her young for twenty days, when her maternal cares ceaſe. After this time, they feed on graſs, roots, leaves, corn, plants, and the bark of young trees, to which they are often very deſtructive in nurſeries and plantations. They breed when but a few months old.

THOUGH the Hare is reckoned the moſt timorous of all animals in its wild ſtate, it will, if taken when young, become ſo tame and familiar, as to ſleep with the Grey-hound, Terrier, or Pointer; of which the writer of this article has been an eye-witneſs. This ſolitary animal, although not poſſeſſed of the wily ſubtilty of the Fox, diſcovers a moſt wonderful inſtinct, which has been given it for its preſervation. The various ſtratagems and doubles it makes, when hunted, to avoid death, would excite the ſurpriſe of every beholder; nor does it diſplay leſs ſagacity and cunning, in preventing the poacher from tracing it through the ſnow, by taking the moſt extraordinary leaps, to elude danger, before ſhe takes her form.

THE



THE RABBIT, AND THE MOLE.

THE great ſimilarity between the Rabbit and the Hare, leaves but little to be ſaid by the natural hiſtorian, or the moraliſt, in its deſcription. Their figure, food, and natural properties, are nearly the ſame. The Hare ſeeks its ſafety by flight, while the Rabbit runs to its ſubterraneous burrow, which Nature has taught her to make with

with an ingenuity, not to be excelled by the moſt experienced miner. The fruitfulneſs of the Rabbit ſo far exceeds that of the Hare, that, according to Pliny and Strabo, they were ſo great a nuiſance in the Baleric Iſlands, in the reign of Auguſtus, they were under the neceſſity of imploring the aſſiſtance of a military force from the Romans to extirpate them. A Spaniſh hiſtorian alſo ſays, that, on the diſcovery of a ſmall iſland, which they named Puerto Santo, or Holy Haven, where they were ſaved from ſhipwreck, they put a pair of Rabbits on ſhore, which increaſed ſo much in the courſe of a few years, that they drove away the inhabitants, by deſtroying their corn and plants, who left them to enjoy the iſland without oppoſition.

THE MOLE.

AS if Nature had meant that no part of the earth ſhould be untenanted, ſo the Mole is formed in ſuch a manner, as to live entirely under ground. The ſize of this animal is between that of the Rat and the Mouſe, but without any reſemblance of either, being quite different

ſent from any other of the four-footed race. It has a noſe like a Hog, but longer in proportion; inſtead of ears, it has only two holes; and its eyes are ſo remarkably ſmall, that it is with the greateſt difficulty they are diſcovered.

THE moderns, as well as the ancients, were univerſally of opinion that the Mole was totally blind; but Dr. Derham, by the means of a microſcope, diſcovered all the parts of the eye known in other animals.

A VERY ſmall degree of viſion being ſufficient for a creature deſtined to a ſubterraneous abode, Providence has wiſely formed them in this manner; for, had they been larger, they would have been continually liable to injury, by the earth falling into them; to prevent which inconvenience, they are likewiſe covered with fur. Another wonderful contrivance, to be obſerved in Nature's works, is, that this animal is furniſhed with a certain muſcle, by which it can exert, or draw back the eye, as neceſſity requires.

A

As a recompence for this defect in the optic nerves, the Mole enjoys two other ſenſes in the higheſt perfection; viz. hearing and ſmelling; the firſt of which gives it the moſt early notice of danger, while the latter, although in the midſt of darkneſs, directs it to its food. The wants of a ſubterraneous animal being but few, ſo thoſe of the Mole are eaſily ſupplied; worms and inſects, inhabiting their regions, being their only food.

Although the Mole is generally black, yet it is ſometimes ſpotted, and has alſo been found quite white. The fur is ſhort, and cloſe ſet, and ſmoother than the fineſt velvet. The length, including the tail, which is about an inch, is ſeven inches. It breeds in the ſpring, and generally brings forth four or five at a time.

THE JERBOA.

THIS ſingular, and, we may ſay, pretty little animal, is a native of Egypt, Barbary, Paleſtine, and the deſerts between Balſora and Aleppo. It is about the ſize of a large Rat; has dark and full eyes, long whiſkers, broad, erect ears, and a head like a Rabbit. The tail is about

ten inches long, at the end of which is a tuft of black hair, tipped with white. The breaſt and belly are of a whitiſh colour; but all the other part of the body is aſh-colour at the bottom, and tawny at the ends. The fore legs are not above an inch in length, with five toes on each, which are all furniſhed with ſharp claws; but the hind legs, which are two inches and a quarter in length, and covered with ſhort hair, exactly reſemble thoſe of a bird, having but three toes, the middle of which is the longeſt; they are alſo armed with ſharp claws.

THIS little animal is as ſingular in its motion as in its form; always walking or ſtanding on its hind legs, and uſing the fore paws as hands, like the Squirrel. It will jump ſix or ſeven feet from the ground, when purſued, and run ſo remarkably ſwift, that few Quadrupeds can overtake it. It is a very inoffenſive creature, living entirely on vegetables. It burrows in the ground, like Rabbits.

IN the year 1770, two of them, which were exhibited in London, had nearly burrowed through the wall of the room in which they were kept.

THERE

THERE is an animal of this ſpecies in Siberia, which is a more expert digger than the Rabbit itſelf; their burrows are ſo numerous in ſome places, as to be even dangerous to travellers.

IT is related of this latter, that it will cut graſs, and leave it in little heaps to dry; which not only ſerves them for food, but alſo makes their habitation warm and comfortable for themſelves and their young during the winter ſeaſon.

THERE is alſo the Torrid Jerboa, ſo called by Linnæus from its inhabiting the Torrid Zone, which is about the ſize of a common Mouſe; and the Indian Jerboa; a ſpecimen of which was to be ſeen in the cabinet of the celebrated Dr. Hunter.

NATURAL HISTORY.

PART II.

BIRDS.

THEIR GENERAL NATURE.

INTRODUCTION.

WHILE the foreſts, the waters, and even the depths of the earth, have their reſpective inhabitants, the air, which includes an immenſe ſpace, too elevated for the power of Man to explore, are traverſed by innumerable beings, of variegated beauty, called Birds; which, in order to facilitate their flight through thoſe expanſive regions, with a ſwiftneſs to compenſate their want of ſtrength, are formed on the following general principles.

FORM.---The body of a Bird, is made ſharp in front, and, when on flight through its native element, it ſwells gradually, until the tail is fully expanded, which, with the aid of the wings, ſerves it not only as a buoy, but alſo as a rudder to direct its flight.

PLUMAGE.---They are covered with feathers, moſt admirably adapted to the air they inhabit, being compoſed of a quill, containing a conſiderable quantity of air, and a ſhaft, edged on each ſide with a moſt volatile ſubſtance, which, with the concavity of the wings, renders the body conſiderably lighter than the air; and thus enables them to explore an immenſe ſpace, denied to every other part of the Creation.

SIGHT.---To adapt the ſight to the ſwiftneſs of their motions, their eyes are not ſo convex or prominent as in creatures confined to the earth; which not only prevents their being injured by the repulſive force of the air, in their rapid flights, but likewiſe renders them leſs liable to be touched with the points of thorns, ſprays, &c. in their progreſs among trees, buſhes, and hedges. The film, or nictating membrane, with which they occaſionally cover their eyes, without cloſing the lids, clears and

protects

protects them from the glare of ſun-beams, as well as from the miſts, fogs, and clouds, with which the air occaſionally abounds, when forced to range for food or neſting. The power alſo of extending the optic nerve, gives ſuch an acuteneſs to their ſight, that they can perceive objects more diſtinctly, and at a greater diſtance, than any other creature.

HEARING.---They have the power of diſtinguiſhing ſounds, without any external ear, which would not only impede their flight, but render them liable to many injuries in darting through buſhes, briars, &c.

SMELLING.---Their ſcent is ſo very acute and extenſive, by which they are appriſed of the approach of their natural, as well as artificial enemies, that thoſe who decoy Ducks, are obliged to keep a piece of burning turf in their mouths, to prevent being diſcovered.

INTERNAL STRUCTURE.---The bones, which are formed ſufficiently ſtrong to ſupport the weight of the body, and the ſyſtem of its functions, are ſo light, as to

be ſcarcely any additional burthen to the fleſh. All their internal ſtructure is calculated to increaſe the ſurface beyond the proportion of the ſolidity of their bodies, in order to render them lighter than the ſame portion of air. The lungs and ends of the windpipe branches imbibe air into a number of bladder receptacles. The crop, which is the repoſitory for ſuperfluous food, ſupplies them in long flights, and other times of indiſpenſible neceſſity. Their food, being generally dry, hard, and crude, they have a gizzard, which, with the help of ſand, and other ſtony particles they ſwallow, aid them in digeſtion.

MOULTING.---Although Birds, from the ſimplicity of their ſtructure, habitation of the air, and perpetual exerciſe, are leſs ſubject to diſeaſe than other creatures, yet they are liable to one to which no others are expoſed; this is the ſickneſs attending the annual renovation of their plumage, which is called their Moulting time.

GENERATION.---In the Spring, when Nature affords abundance of food, Birds are ſtimulated to pair, to increaſe their ſpecies. Having choſen their mate for the enſuing year,

year, they proceed to thoſe official cares which diſtinguiſh the approach of being made parents. With all the fondneſs of ſuch expectations, they proceed to collect materials for their neſts, which they build with the ſkill of the moſt expert architect. They diſcover ſo much conſtancy to each other, with ſuch unabating care and affection in breeding and rearing their young, that they might be taken as examples by the human ſpecies.

HABITATION.----Birds are particularly attached to the place of their nativity. A Rook, if undiſturbed, will never quit its native grove; the Blackbird and Redbreaſt are tenacious of their birthrights; and many others, that are known to emigrate annually from this country, have been found, by frequent experiments, to return to their uſual breeding places.

MIGRATION---Is that paſſage of Birds from one climate to another, according as they are impelled by fear, hunger, or change of ſeaſons. Many have been the conjectures of naturaliſts and travellers reſpecting this extraordinary conduct in particular Birds. Some have ſuppoſed,

that thoſe which were not ſtrong enough to ſuſtain a flight over expanding oceans, collected themſelves in bodies, and repaired to chaſms in rocks, or ſought a temporary tomb beneath the waters, where they remained, in a ſtate of torpidity, until the revolving ſeaſons ſhould recall them to the exerciſe of their former functions. Others have imagined, that they actually ſought climes more congenial to their nature and ſubſiſtance, at a time when cold and ſcarcity rendered the country of their ſojournment both dangerous and inconvenient. The times of their departure and return are ſo regular, that, in the courſe of five years, the average has not exceeded more than a ſingle day. Thoſe tribes which have not ſufficient ſtrength to croſs the immenſe deſarts and vaſt oceans, ſuch as Swallows, Martins, &c. are ſuppoſed to find a winter ſubſiſtance in the ſouthern countries of Europe, where the clemency of the ſeaſon ſeems, moſt hoſpitably, to invite them to partake of their bounties.

It has been obſerved, that ſome Birds, which migrate in particular climates, are conſtantly reſident in others. According to Herodotus, there is a ſpecies of Swallow, that

that abides perpetually in Egypt; which muſt undoubtedly ariſe from the equality of the ſeaſons in that part of Africa. This property, therefore, is not peculiar to any particular ſpecies of Bird, but rather cauſed by the difference of the country and climate in which they are bred. In Cayan, Java, and other warm climates, thoſe Birds, which uniformly migrate in the cold regions of Norway, North America, and Kamtſchatka, are conſtant reſidents through every change of ſeaſon. The manner of their departure is too curious to paſs unnoticed. They range themſelves in a column, like an I, or in two lines, reſembling the ſides of a wedge. When they have taken flight, one particular bird takes the lead; after going a certain diſtance, he is relieved by another. In their progreſs, ſeveral particulars occur, to excite our wonder, as well as our veneration, at that immenſity of wiſdom, which has formed them with ſo extraordinary an inſtinct. Who acquainted their young with the time, place, and neceſſity of their departure; and what can induce them to change the place of their nativity for a ſtrange country? Who cauſes the impriſoned Bird to feel its captivity at the time of emigration; or who is the Herald, to aſſemble

theſe feathered voyagers and travellers? Who is it that forbids one to depart before the appointed time? Who forms their charts; or who ſupplies them with a compaſs, to direct them over pathleſs waſtes, and trackleſs oceans? Or who is it that guides them to thoſe countries, where they reſt and recruit themſelves after their long journies, ſo as to be enabled to reach their deſtined ſojournment? As theſe queſtions can only be referred to the wiſdom of the Great Creator of the Univerſe, we cannot avoid learning from them this leſſon of humility at leaſt; that, whatever may be the boaſt of human reaſon, it vaniſhes, when compared with this wonderful inſtinct of the emigrative power in Birds.

CLASSES.---According to Linnæus, Birds are divided into Six Claſſes, in the following order:

I. THE *Rapacious Kind*---Which are carnivorous, and live by preying on others, or eating the fleſh of dead animals. They are diſtinguiſhed by the beak, which is ſtrong, hooked, and notched at the point; by their ſhort muſcular legs, ſtrong toes, and crooked talons; by their ſtrength

ſtrength of body, impurity of fleſh, nature of food, and ferocious cruelty.

II. THE *Pie Kind*---Which are diſtinguiſhed by their miſcellaneous food, and their females being fed by the males in breeding time.

III. THE *Poultry Kind*---Which are diſtinguiſhed by their fat muſcular bodies, and pure white fleſh. Strangers to any attachment, unlike other Birds, they are promiſcuous in the choice of their mates.

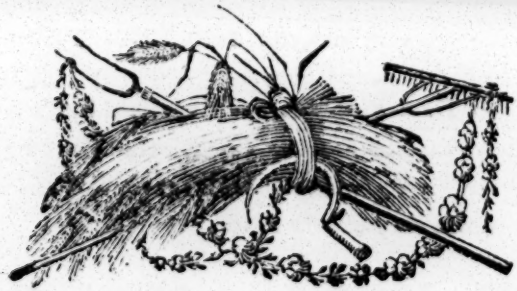
IV. THE *Sparrow Kind*---Which moſtly compoſe the vocal and beautiful. Some live on ſeed, others on inſects. While rearing, they are remarkably fond and faithful.

V. THE *Duck Kind*---Are diſtinguiſhed by their bills, which ſerve them as ſtrainers for their food; and by their feet, which, being webbed, enable them to ſwim in the waters, where they chiefly reſide.

VI. THE *Crane Kind*----Are diſtinguiſhed by their long and penetrating bills, which enable them to ſearch

for food at the bottom of waters, near which they chiefly reſide; and by their necks and legs, which are proportionable in length.

HAVING thus briefly given an account of the different Claſſes, with their diſtinguiſhing peculiarities, we ſhall begin our deſcription with thoſe which cannot be ranged ſyſtematically; ſuch as the Oſtrich, Caſſowary, Condour, Dodo, &c. which, being of extraordinary ſize, and incapable of flying, are not included in the Six Claſſes before mentioned.



THE

THE OSTRICH.

THIS Bird, according to Naturaliſts, is one of the largeſt in the world. The head, which is like that of a Duck, riſes to the height of a man on horſeback. The body is like a Camel, and has two ſhort wings, which, though exceeding ſtrong, are not expanſive enough to

buoy it from the ſurface of the earth; but, with their aſſiſtance, added to the length of its legs, it exceeds in ſpeed the ſwifteſt Arabian. It has legs and thighs like a Heron, and each foot has three claws covered with horn, the elaſtic ſtrength of which greatly facilitates and increaſes its flight.

Its eggs are ſo large, that they commonly weigh fifteen pounds. That they diſregard their future progeny, Kolben denies, having ſeen them ſit on their eggs at the Cape of Good Hope. She, however, deſerts them by day; but, like other Birds, returns to them at night. The climate at the Cape requiring her brooding heat, it is a natural inſtinct; but, in thoſe parts of Africa, nearer the Equator, we conceive they do, as reported, leave their eggs to be hatched by the heat of the ſun, but not without the precaution of covering them with ſand, and bringing worms and other proviſions for the young, when hatched; for, in birds, as in other creatures, Nature conforms to the ſoil and climate which they are to inhabit. The ſimplicity and ignorance of the Oſtrich is particularly obſervable, in its only hiding its head to ſecure its body from the attack of the hunters.

THE amazing power poſſeſſed by this Bird, of digeſting ſtones, iron, and other crude ſubſtances, evinces the wiſdom of the Creator, in giving it the faculty of turning to nutriment thoſe things which its barren and native deſerts only afford.

THE Oſtrich ſeems to fill one of thoſe voids in Nature, between the quadruped and feathered race, as the Bat does another; the former reſembling the Camel, in the ſame proportion as the Bat does the Mouſe.

To the beauty of its plumage this Bird owes its deſtruction. But, in return, it triumphs over Man; for the feathers which its death affords the purſuers, attend the hearſe of Man to the grave.

THE CASSOWARY.

THIS Bird, which is found in the ſouthern parts of the Eaſt Indies, is about five feet and a half high. The wings are ſo ſmall, as to be ſcarcely perceptible. It has a creſt on its head, reſembling a helmet, three inches high. Though every feather of this Bird is adapted for flight,

none

none are entirely deſtined for covering. The extremities of them are armed with five prickles, the longeſt of which is eleven inches. It is deſcribed to have the head of a Warrior, the eye of a Lion, defence of a Porcupine, and fleetneſs of a Courſer. But, though provided thus formidably, it is perfectly inoffenſive. It neither walks, runs, hops, jumps, or flies; but, kicking up one leg behind, it bounds forward with the other, with a velocity not to be equalled by the ſwifteſt Arabian.

THIS Bird, like the Oſtrich, is extremely voracious of all things capable of paſſing its ſwallow. The Dutch aſſert, that it not only devours glaſs, iron, and ſtones, but even burning coals, without the leaſt fear or injury. From its ſcarcity, it is generally ſuppoſed not to be ſo prolific as the Oſtrich; but this may be more owing to their native place being uſurped by Man, than from any defect in its nature; for, both its natural armour and digeſtive power, are convincing proofs that it is deſtined for the deſert, and not for cultivated plains. So that, like other wild creatures, when they have, in vain, diſputed with Man the poſſeſſion of their own territories, they may have with-

drawn themſelves to ſome ſolitary deſert, far from the prying eye of Man, and for which they are ſo peculiarly formed.

THE EMU,

WHICH is a Bird but little known, is ſix feet high, reſembling the Oſtrich in form; and has been reckoned, by travellers and naturaliſts, to be of the ſame ſpecies. It is the largeſt Bird yet diſcovered on the new continent: but is chiefly found in Guiana, Brazil, Chili, and the immenſe foreſts bordering on the mouth of the river Plata. Some aſſert, that it buries its eggs in the ſand, like the Oſtrich; but they may be miſtaken, as thoſe of the Crocodile are buried and hatched in the ſame manner.

THE DODO.

THE inactive appearance of this Bird, ſeems to fill another void in Nature between Birds and Beaſts, which is that between the Sloth, and a more active individual of the feathered tribe. Its body, which is nearly round, is very ponderous, and covered with grey feathers. The lega

legs reſemble the pillars of a fixed building, but ſeem ſcarcely ſtrong enough to ſupport the body; the neck is thick and purſy; and the head has two wide chaps, that open beyond the eyes, which are large, black, and prominent; the bill, which is extremely long and thick, is of a bluiſh white, and crooked in oppoſite directions, reſembling two pointed ſpoons laid on the back of each other. It has a ſtupid and voracious appearance, which is greatly increaſed by a bordering of feathers, that grow round the root of the beak, and have the appearance of a cowl or hood. The Dodo is, in ſhort, a moſt complete picture of ſtupidity and deformity.

Like the Sloth, it is incapable either of defence or flight. It is a native of the Iſle of France, where it was firſt found by the Dutch. It is aſſerted by ſome, that the fleſh is nauſeous, while others, on the contrary, contend that it is palatable and wholeſome. This Bird grows to ſuch an enormous ſize, that three or four of them are ſufficient to dine a hundred ſailors. The Dodo, by ſome, is thought to be the Bird of Nazareth, the deſcription of it being exactly ſimilar to that Bird.

THIS ſeems to be an entire exception to the general nature of Birds, both in appearance, as well as activity. If we except the Owls, and Birds of that deſcription, there are ſcarcely any but what are agreeable in form, and alert in motion; but this, on the other hand, appears formed, not only to diſguſt the ſpectator, but to be almoſt an immoveable burleſque of the feathered tribe. Were we allowed to give our opinion of the final cauſe of creating ſo unſeemly a creature, we ſhould ſay, it was formed as a foil to the various beauties diſcovered in the reſt of the Bird Creation.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE.

THIS Bird is about three feet nine inches in length, and eight ſpans in breadth. Its bill is ſtrong, ſharp, and crooked: the eye has four lids, to guard it againſt exceſſive light, and prevent it from external injuries: the toes are covered with ſcales; and the claws are exceedingly ſtrong

ſtrong and formidable. It is found in the mountainous parts of Ireland, where its fierceneſs has been obſerved to attack Cats, Dogs, Sheep, &c. As it ſeldom lays more than two eggs, it is a convincing proof that Providence has wiſely prevented too great an increaſe of what might prove very offenſive, if not deſtructive to the poſſeſſions of mankind. Some of theſe birds have been found in Wales.

The male engages in the maintenance of the young for the firſt three months; after which time the female undertakes, and continues in this employment, until they are capable of providing for themſelves. The Eagle flies the higheſt of all birds, and is therefore called the Bird of Heaven. Bochart ſays, that it lives a century, during which period it is continually increaſing. Such is its thirſt after blood, that it never drinks any other liquid, unleſs when ſick. The Swan is the only bird that dare reſiſt this King of Birds. All others, not even excepting the Dragon, tremble at his terrific cry. Not content with preying on birds, and the ſmaller beaſts, it will plunge into ſeas, lakes, and rivers, after fiſh. His ſight is more acute

acute than that of any other bird. It carries the young on its back to ſecure them from the fowler. The feathers are renovated every ten years, which greatly increaſes its vigour, as expreſſed in the beautiful ſimile of David: *Thy youth ſhall be renewed like that of the Eagle.* The Eagle that would not quit the corpſe of Pyrrhus, who had brought it up from a neſtling, is a proof that this ſpecies of bird is capable of attachment and gratitude.

THERE are ſixteen other ſorts of Eagles; namely, the Sun, Bold, Ring-tailed, and Black Eagles; Oſprey Bird; Crowned, Common, White, Rough-footed, Erne, Jean le Blanc, Brazilian, Oroonoko, Eagle of Pondicherry, and Vulturine Eagle.

THE CONDOUR OF AMERICA.

IT is doubtful which this bird is moſt allied to, the Eagle or the Vulture; its force and vivacity reſembling the former, while the baldneſs of its head and neck are like the latter. No bird can compare with it for ſize, ſtrength, rapacity, and ſwiftneſs of flight. It is, therefore,

fore, more formidable than the Eagle to birds, beaſts, and even to mankind. The rarity of this pernicious and deſtructive bird, is another inſtance of the great care of Providence in proportioning theſe creatures, according to their utility or ferocious propenſity; for, were the Condour as prolific, or common as others of the feathered tribe, it would ſpread univerſal devaſtation.

Sir Hans Sloane ſays, one was ſhot by Captain Strong, not far from Mocha, an iſland in the South Seas, on the Coaſt of Chili, as it was ſitting on a cliff by the ſea ſide. The wings, when extended, meaſured, from each extremity, ſixteen feet. One of the feathers, which is now in the Britiſh Muſeum, is two feet four inches in length, one inch and a half in circumference, and weighed three drachms, ſeventeen grains and a half.

According to Garcilaſio de la Vaga, ſeveral have been killed by the Spaniards, which in general meaſured fifteen or ſixteen feet from wing to wing. To prevent the too fatal exerciſe of their fierceneſs, Nature has denied them ſuch talons as the Eagle. They have only claws,

claws, which are as harmleſs as thoſe of the Hen. Their beaks are, however, ſtrong enough to tear off the hide, and penetrate the bowels of an Ox. Two of them will attack and devour a Cow or a Bull; and it has often happened that boys of ten years of age have fallen a prey to them. The inhabitants of Chili are, therefore, in continual dread leſt their children ſhould be devoured in their abſence. In order to allure them, they expoſe the form of a child, made of a very glutinous clay, on which they dart with ſuch rapidity, and penetrate ſo deeply with their beaks, that they cannot diſengage themſelves. The Indians aſſert, that they will ſeize and bear aloft a Deer, or a young Calf, as eaſily as Eagles do a Hare or a Rabbit.

NATURE appriſes every one of its approach, by cauſing it to make ſo great a noiſe with its wings, as almoſt to occaſion deafneſs. The body is as large as that of a Sheep, and the fleſh as diſagreeable as carrion. Thus Man loſes no food from the providential ſcarcity of this terrific and devouring creature. Foreſts, not affording room for its flight, are never infeſted with its depredations; they, therefore, dwell moſtly in mountains, viſiting the ſhores

ſhores at night, when rain or tempeſts drive their finny prey thither for ſhelter.

THEY are chiefly to be found in the deſerts of Pachomac, where men ſeldom venture to travel; thoſe wild regions being alone ſufficient to inſpire the mind with a ſecret horror, affording no other muſic but the roaring of wild beaſts, and the hiſſing of Serpents; while the adjacent mountains are rendered equally terrible from the viſits of this deſtructive bird.

THIS bird is thought, by naturaliſts, to be the ſame as the Rock, found in Arabia, the Tarnaſſar, in the Eaſt Indies, and the large Vulture, in Senegal.

THE KING OF THE VULTURES.

THIS bird differs from the Eagle, in its indelicate voracity; preying more upon carrion than live animals; which diſpoſition ſeems wiſely adopted by Providence, as a prevention againſt the nauſeous and epidemical effects that might otherwiſe ariſe from carcaſes being left to putrify

trify on the earth. Its preying on the eggs of Crocodiles, which lay each of them at leaſt two or three hundred, in the ſands, is another diſpenſation of Divine Providence, in order to prevent too great an increaſe of thoſe voracious and deſtructive animals.

The form of this bird is diſtinguiſhed from the Eagle, by the nakedneſs of its head and neck, though, not being deſtined to prey particularly on living birds, &c. their flight is not equal to that of the Eagle, Falcon, or Hawk. But, being allured by putrefaction, their ſenſe of ſmelling is proportionably exquiſite. Happily for us, it is a ſtranger to England, while it is found in Arabia, Egypt, and many parts of Africa and Aſia. There is a down under the wings, which in the African markets is frequently ſold as a valuable fur.

The Vulture is conſidered ſo ſerviceable in Egypt, that, in Grand Cairo, large flocks are permitted to reſide, in order to devour the carrion of that great city, which would otherwiſe be liable to frequent peſtilence.

It is ſerviceable, likewiſe, in thoſe countries where hunters purſue, and deſtroy animals merely for the ſkins; as they follow, and devour the bodies before they lie long enough to corrupt the air; which they do ſo greedily and voraciouſly, as to be unable to fly. But, when they are attacked, they have a power of lightening their ſtomachs, ſo as to effect their eſcape.

This bird is ſomewhat larger than a Turkey-cock, and remarkable for the uncommon formation of the ſkin covering the head and neck, (which is of an orange colour) being bare. The eyes are ſurrounded with a ſkin of a ſcarlet colour, and have a beautiful pearl-coloured iris. Although the King of the Vultures ſtands confeſſedly the moſt beautiful of this deformed race, its habits are equally diſagreeable with the reſt.

The flight and cry of theſe birds, being particularly obſerved and attended to by the Roman Augurs, muſt have ariſen from their conſidering, where they were moſt inclined to direct their flight, from the previous ſenſe they had of an approaching ſlaughter; which the Romans always

ways flattered themſelves was to enſue of the enemies they were preparing to engage.

THE GOLDEN VULTURE.

ALTHOUGH this bird is larger, yet, in other reſpects, it reſembles the Golden Eagle. It is four feet and a half in length. The lower part of the neck, breaſt, and belly, are red: the back is covered with black feathers, the wings and tail with thoſe of a yellowiſh brown. Though the various ſpecies differ very much in reſpect to colour and dimenſions, yet they are all eaſily diſtinguiſhed by their naked heads, and beaks partly ſtraight, and partly hooked.

IN this claſs are alſo to be ranged, the Golden, Aſh-coloured, and Brown Vultures, natives of Europe; the Spotted and Black Vultures, of Egypt; the Brazilian, and the Bearded Vultures.

THE

THE FALCON.

THE dignified ſport of Falconry, which formerly diſtinguiſhed the recreation of the Engliſh Nobility, has been long diſcontinued. A perſon of rank ſcarcely ever appeared without his Falcon, which, in old paintings, are the criterion of titular diſtinction. Harold, afterwards King

King of England, was painted with a Falcon on his hand, and a Dog under his arm, when he was going on an important embaſſy. To wind a horn, and carry a Falcon with grace, were then marks of being well bred. Learning was left for the ſtudy of children, born in a more humble ſphere.

In the reign of James I. Sir Thomas Monſon gave one thouſand pounds for a Caſt of Hawks. An unqualified perſon, taking the eggs of a Hawk, even upon his own ground, was fined and impriſoned, at the pleaſure of the pleaſure of the King. Edward III. made it felony to ſteal a Hawk.

The Generous Hawk is diſtinguiſhed from the baſer race of Kites, Sparrow-hawks, and Buzzards, by the ſecond feather, which in this kind is the longeſt; whereas, in the other kinds, the fourth feather is the longeſt. They alſo poſſeſs natural powers, of which the other race are deſtitute. They purſue their game with more ſwiftneſs and confidence, and, from their generoſity of temper, they are ſo attached to their feeders, as to become very tractable.

The Hawk or Falcon purſues the Heron, Kite, and Woodlark, by flying perpendicularly upwards, which affords the greateſt diverſion; while other birds, by flying horizontally, diminiſh the pleaſure of the ſportſman, as well as endanger the loſs of his Hawk.

The Norwegian breed of Hawks were of ſuch eſteem in the reign of King John, that, in conſideration of a preſent of two of theſe birds, that monarch allowed the friend of Jeffry Fitzpierre to export one hundred weight of cheeſe; a very great privilege in thoſe days. We learn further, from Maddox's Antiquities, that the intereſt of Richard I. was obtained, by the preſent of one Norway Hawk, in favour of John, the ſon of Ordgar.

THE GYR-FALCON.

THIS ſpecies of Falcon, which exceeds all others, both in ſize and elegance, is nearly as large as an Eagle. The bill is hooked and yellow, and the plumage moſtly white: the feathers of the back and wings have black ſpots, in the ſhape of hearts: the thighs are clothed with long feathers,

thers, of the pureſt white: the legs are yellow, and feathered below the knees. This bird is ſometimes found entirely white. It was uſed to fly at the nobleſt game, ſuch as Cranes, Herons, &c.

In this ſpecies of birds may be claſſed, the Peregrine Falcon, Sacre, Mountain, Grey, White, Tunis or Barbary Falcons, and

The FALCON GENTLE,

Which is known from other Falcons by the neck, being ſurrounded with a light yellow ring.

Many miſtakes having been made, with reſpect to the names of this ſpecies of bird, we think it neceſſary to inform our Readers, that they are called, according to the times they are taken, after the following names:

If taken in June, July, or Aug. they are called *Gentle*
- - - - - - Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. - - - - - - - *Pilgrims*
- - - - - - Jan. Febr. March - - - - - - - *Antenere*

and, if once moulted, it is called *Hagar*, from the Hebrew, which ſignifies *a Stranger*.

THE GOSHAWK.

THIS bird, which is larger than the Common Buzzard, is longer in form, and more elegant in ſhape. The breaſt and belly are white, beautifully ſtreaked with tranſverſe lines of black and white. This ſpecies, as well as that of the Sparrow-hawk, are diſtinguiſhed by the name of

of Short-winged Hawks, from their wings, when cloſed, not reaching to the end of the tail. This bird was formerly much eſteemed, and taught by Falconers to purſue Cranes, Wild Geeſe, Pheaſants, and Partridges.

THE KITE.

THE Kite differs from all the reſt of the ſpecies, by its forked tail, ſlow, floating motion, and being almoſt continually on the wing. Inſtead of uſing the wings when flying, it appears to reſt on the boſom of the air. Pliny ſuppoſes the invention of the rudder to be owing to the notice mankind have taken of the Kite, in uſing its tail to direct its flight. Every bird in the air, being capable of eſcaping the purſuit of the Kite, it is obliged to ſubſiſt on accidental carnage, which it devours like a famiſhed ſavage, without the leaſt mercy or moderation

HUNGER often makes them ſo deſperate, as to attack broods of chickens, ducklings, &c.

It uſually breeds in large foreſts, or woody mountains. The hen lays two or three eggs, which, like thoſe of other birds of prey, are larger at the narrow end than thoſe laid by the other ſpecies. When this bird flies high, it is ſaid to portend fine and dry weather. It has been, though erroneouſly, reckoned among birds of paſſage. It is twenty-ſeven inches in length, five feet in breadth, and in weight about forty-four ounces. This bird, poſſeſſing no peculiarity of plumage, we omit giving an unintereſting detail of its feathers: we ſhall, therefore, only obſerve, that they ſometimes differ in colour; ſome being entirely tawny, while others are variegated.

The COMMON BUZZARD.

This bird, which is remarkably ſluggiſh and inactive, will frequently remain perched a whole day on the ſame bough. Frogs, mice, and inſects, are its chief ſubſiſtance.

ance. The reaſon for preferring which, ſeems to ariſe from natural indolence, they being more eaſily obtained than birds, which it will not take the trouble of flying after. It lives in the ſummer by robbing neſts, and ſucking the eggs. In countenance, it more reſembles the Owl, than any bird of day. Should the hen Buzzard be killed, the cock will hatch, and rear the young. They breed in large woods, and generally build on an old crow's neſt. The young accompany their parents for ſome time after they can fly, which diſtinguiſhes them from other birds of prey. They vary conſiderably in their plumage; ſome having brown breaſts and bellies, while others are only marked on the breaſt with a white creſcent. They are about two feet long, four feet wide, and thirty-two ounces in weight.

Of this ſpecies there are alſo, the Honey, Moor, and Turkey Buzzard; the Hen-harrier, Keſtril, and Hobby.

THE SPARROW-HAWK.

THERE is a great difference in ſize between the male and female of this bird; the latter weighing nearly twice as much as the former. They vary alſo conſiderably in their plumage; though the back, head, coverts of the wings, and tail, are generally of a blue grey. It makes great devaſtation among Pigeons and Partridges.

THE Sparrow-hawk was in ſuch veneration among the Egyptians, that they choſe it as the repreſentative of their God Oſiris, and puniſhed with death every perſon who ſhould kill one. The Greeks conſecrated it to Apollo. It was alſo made one of the ſymbols of Juno, from its fixed and piercing ſight, which reſembled the jealous obſervance of that Goddeſs.

THE MERLIN,

WHICH is the ſmalleſt of Hawks, and not much larger than a Thruſh, has been known to kill Quails and Partridges, and diſplay ſuch courage, as to render itſelf as formidable as birds of ſix times its magnitude.

THE female, like that of all birds of prey, is conſiderably larger than the male. It was known to the ancients by the name of Llamyſden.

THE GREATER BUTCHER BIRD.

THIS bird leads a life of perpetual hoſtility. It is about the ſize of a Blackbird. From its carnivorous appetite, it participates of the nature of birds of prey, while from its ſlender legs, feet, and toes, it partakes of the nature of thoſe that live upon grain, inſects, &c.

When this bird has killed its prey, it hangs it upon a thorn, as a butcher hangs up a carcaſe, and pulls it to pieces with his bill. Its uſual food is ſmall birds, which it ſeizes by the throat, and ſtrangles in an inſtant. The old and young ſeek their prey in concert. It is ten inches in length, fourteen inches broad, and three ounces in weight. The back, and coverts of the wings, are of an aſh colour, and the ſides of the head are white.

Of this ſpecies are alſo to be found, the Red-backed Butcher-bird, the Wood-Chat, and the Leaſt Butcher Bird; which latter, although not much larger than a Titmouſe, is a bird of prey. The head is of a fine grey, and beneath each eye there is a tuft of black feathers.

THE OWL.

HAVING deſcribed the rapacious birds of day, we proceed to thoſe of night, which are equally cruel, and more treacherous. That no link in the chain of Nature ſhould be incomplete, theſe birds employ the night in devaſtation, preventing by this means any chaſm in the round

of time. They are diſtinguiſhed from all other birds by their eyes, which are better adapted for the purpoſes of darkneſs than of light. Like Tigers and Cats, which ſubſiſt by their nocturnal watchfulneſs, they are endued with the power of diſcerning objects, at a time when we ſhould conceive it to be totally dark. The idea, however, that they ſee beſt in total darkneſs, is erroneous; twilight, which is the medium between the glare of day, and the gloom of night, being the time they ſee with the greateſt perſpicuity. But the faculty of ſight differs greatly in the different ſpecies.

THE note of the Owl is truly hideous; and ſuch is the antipathy of the ſmall birds to it, that, if one appears by chance in the day-time, they all ſurround, inſult, and beat him. So great however is the utility of this bird, that one Owl will deſtroy, in the ſame ſpace of time, more mice than ſix cats.

THE White, or Barn Owl, which is the moſt domeſtic, can ſee the ſmalleſt mouſe peep from its hole; while the Brown Owl is frequently obſerved to have a ſight ſtrong enough

enough to ſeek its prey in the day-time. Deſtined to appear by night only, Nature ſeems to have thought it unneceſſary to laviſh on them any beauties, either of form or plumage, as they would have been loſt to general contemplation.

As a ſubject of vigilance, this bird was conſecrated to Minerva, and ſeems to fill that chaſm between quadrupeds and the feathered race, which is obſervable between Cats and Birds.

THE GREAT HORNED OWL,

WHICH is nearly as large as an Eagle, has ſome feathers riſing from his head, which he can elevate or lower, at pleaſure. The back, and coverts of the wings, are varied with deep brown and yellow. It uſually breeds in caverns, hollow trees, or ruinated buildings, making their neſts nearly three feet in diameter.

THIS ſpecies of Owl is ſometimes found in Cheſhire, Wales, and the north of England.

THE LESSER HORNED OWL.

THE wings of this bird are ſo long, that, when cloſed, they reach beyond their tails. The feathers of the head, back, and coverts of the wings, are brown, edged with yellow: the tip of the tail is white.

THERE is alſo a ſmaller kind of Horned Owl, which is not much larger than the Thruſh.

OF Owls, there are alſo, the Little Owl, which is remarkable for its elegance; the Screech Owl, which has blue eyes, and iron-grey feathers; and the Brown Owl, which remains all day in the woods.

NOTWITHSTANDING this ſpecies of birds differ ſo materially, both in ſize and plumage, their eyes are all adapted for nocturnal viſion, to enable them to ſeek their food, which they always do by night. They have ſtrong muſcular bodies; powerful feet and claws, for tearing their prey; and ſtomachs properly adapted for digeſtion.

BIRDS of the POULTRY KIND.

THIS Claſs is the moſt harmleſs, as well as the moſt ſerviceable to Man. It not only furniſhes the table of the epicure with various dainties, but alſo forms a conſiderable addition to the neceſſaries of life. The Rapacious Kind may amuſe us in the ſports of the field, and the warbling ſongſter, with its melodious voice, delight us in the grove; but none can equal the eſſential ſervice, and ſolid advantages of the Domeſtic Poultry. They are a ſource of wealth to the peaſantry, who keep them at a ſmall expence, eſpecially at farm houſes, and where they have a range of common; which the prodigious influx of eggs and fowls, continually pouring into the markets of this great and opulent metropolis, daily teſtify.

They were originally of foreign origin; but time and the climate has ſo inured them to us, that they are now conſidered as natives; and, by their great increaſe, form no inconſiderable part of merchandiſe.

As the Rapacious Claſs are formed for war, this ſeems equally deſirous of peace. They are naturally indolent and voluptuous; have a ſtrong ſtomach, uſually called a gizzard, which makes them very voracious; while pent up, even, and ſeparated from their companions, they ſtill enjoy the pleaſure of eating, and will grow fat, while many of the wilder ſpecies pine away, and refuſe even common ſuſtenance.

It is particularly remarkable of this Claſs of Birds, that, though naturally fond of ſociety, their ſenſual appetites are ſuch, as to admit of no connubial fidelity, which is ſuch a diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic in Birds of the Rapacious Kind, ſuch as the Eagle, &c. whoſe connexions, when once formed, never end but with their lives.

THE Cock, like the Bull, wild and irregular in his appetites, ranges from one Hen to another, ſtruts about the farm yard, like a Sultan in his ſeraglio, and conſiders every one of his ſex as his rival and enemy. Careleſs of his progeny, he leaves to the female all the care of providing for the young; which ſhe performs with the greateſt maternal care and tenderneſs, till they are capable of providing for themſelves.

THE Hen, equally devoid of fidelity and attachment with the Cock, when he meets and engages with a rival, ſtands an unconcerned ſpectator of the conflict, and readily receives the embraces of the conqueror.

THE Cock, when oppoſed to a Bird of Prey, is timorous and cowardly; but, when in oppoſition to one of his own ſpecies, he is naturally valiant, ſeldom leaving his antagoniſt until he is killed or taken from him; many ſhameful inſtances of which are too frequently exhibited in the different cockpits of the metropolis.

THIS Claſs includes alſo the Turkey, Guinea Hen, Pheaſant, Buſtard, Grouſe, Partridge, and Quail; but,

as

as their ſeveral propenſities are not ſo particularly diſtinguiſhable as the preceding, we ſhall content ourſelves with deſcribing them in their proper places.

MOST of the Birds of this Claſs are remarkable for the whiteneſs and purity of their fleſh, as well as for their bulk. They have ſtrong bills to pick up their food, which principally conſiſts of grain and worms, and ſhort concave wings, which render them ſlow in flight.

THE

THE COCK.

OF all birds, the Cock ſeems to have been the firſt reclaimed from the foreſt, to gratify the luxury and amuſement of Man. This bird, in its domeſtic ſtate, undergoes many variations. In Japan, there is a ſpecies of this fowl, which ſeems to be covered with hair inſtead of

of feathers. Theſe varieties ſhow the length of time they muſt have been under the dominion of Man; the departure from their original characteriſtic ariſing from the mixture of breeds, brought from different countries, which have been allowed to corrupt, without improving the ſtock. That the Cock was originally imported from Perſia, is generally acknowledged. It has been, however, ſo long in this country, that, amongſt the ancient Britons, it was one of the forbidden foods.

FROM the very great length of time this bird has been reſident amongſt us, we ſhould be apt to doubt whether it was natural to any other country, was it not ſometimes to be found in the iſlands of the Indian ocean, where it ſtill retains its wild, and natural liberty.

ARISTOPHANES calls it the Perſian Bird, in order to ſhow the country where it is produced.

THE Cock is a very gallant bird, and will fight with his own ſpecies, eſpecially for the poſſeſſion of his hens, with amazing courage and perſeverance.

To

To the bravery of this bird, even Princes themſelves, in different parts of the world, have, to their ſhame be it ſpoken, owed a principal part of their amuſement. Heathens might have fallen into this error; but that a race of people, calling themſelves Chriſtians, who are ſtiled the patrons of compaſſion and humanity, ſhould take a delight in ſetting theſe inoffenſive birds to deſtroy each other, can only be attributed to a barbarous propenſity in human nature, which we cannot but lament.

Exclusive of this, there two other ſpecies of Cocks, called the Hamburgh and Bantam Cocks; the latter of which is well known and diſtinguiſhed in this country, by its diminutive ſize, and feathered legs.

THE PEACOCK.

THE Italians have obſerved, not unaptly, that this bird has the plumage of an angel, the voice of a demon, and the appetite of a thief. They were originally from India, and are ſtill found in vaſt flocks in the iſlands of Ceylon and Java. The beauty of the Peacock deprived

it

it firſt of its liberty; which proves to demonſtration, that beauty is not confined to the deſtruction of the human ſpecies. So early as in the time of Solomon, according to the tenth chapter of the Firſt Book of Kings, Apes and Peacocks are found among the articles that were imported from Tarſhiſh. They were ſo much eſteemed by the Greeks, that a pair of them was reckoned worth upwards of thirty pounds ſterling. When firſt introduced into Greece, they were made a public exhibition. Hortenſius, the orator, was the firſt who ſerved them up as an entertainment for the table. They were afterwards conſidered the choiceſt of viands, and one of the greateſt ornaments of the feaſt: but their palatable fame ſoon declined, as may be obſerved by the conduct of Francis I. who ſerved them up in their plumage, by way of ornament, not as a dainty.

To deſcribe the Peacock as conciſely as poſſible, we have only to obſerve, that the head, neck, and beginning of the breaſt, are of a deep ſhining blue: on the crown, is a tuft of green feathers; and the tail, which may be ſaid to vie in ſplendour with the rainbow, (the colours being

being ſo beautifully intermixed) they diſplay with all the ſeeming vanity of a conceited beauty. The gold, cheſnut, green, and blue of the eyes, are ſo happily diſpoſed, that they form the fineſt harmony, and moſt beautiful contraſt of colour, that can poſſibly be conceived. The bird himſelf is ſo ſenſible of this ſuperiority of plumage, which certainly exceeds every thing of the kind in Nature's works, that he is never ſo proud as when he exhibits this unrivalled work of the Divine Artiſt, to whom he is indebted for his form and exiſtence.

THE PHEASANT.

THE plumage of this bird is ſo beautiful, that many eſteem it next in rank to the Peacock. Crœſus, King of Lydia, when ſeated on his throne, arrayed in all the ſplendour of the Eaſt, aſked Solon, if he had ever ſeen any thing ſo fine? To which the Philoſopher replied, that,

that, after having ſeen a Pheaſant, no other finery could aſtoniſh him.

ALTHOUGH the Pheaſant is, certainly, a moſt beautiful and elegant bird, yet there are many others, as well as the Peacock, which can vie with it in plumage. Its chief beauties are, in the eyes, which are yellow, ſurrounded with ſcarlet, and ſpotted with black; black feathers, intermingled with a gloſſy purple, adorn the fore part of the head; while the top of the head, and the upper part of the neck, are tinged with a darkiſh, ſhining green: the back, ſides, breaſt, and ſhoulders, are of a black colour, changing to purple, according to the ſituation of the ſpectator, under which purple is a tranſverſe ſtreak of a gold colour.

THE tail is about eighteen inches long; the legs, feet, and toes, are of a horn colour; and two of the toes are connected by a membrane.

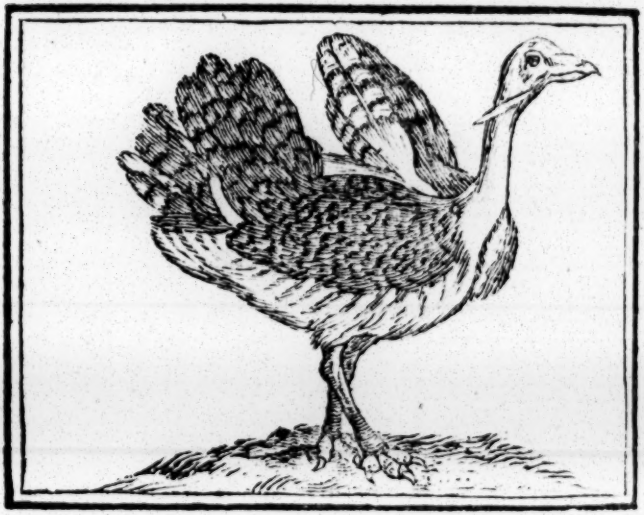
THIS bird is not only beautiful to the eye, but extremely delicate to the taſte. But, as if it diſdained the commerce

commerce of Man, it has left him, to take ſhelter in the woods and foreſts; to which unlimited freedom may be attributed the exquiſite flavour of its fleſh.

The GOLDEN PHEASANT of CHINA.

THIS bird, which is ſaid to excel all the reſt in beauty, is ſo prolific, that, when in its wild ſtate, it will lay twenty eggs, and upwards, being double the number they lay when domeſticated. The Pheaſant, of all wild birds, is moſt eaſily ſhot.

Besides thoſe already mentioned, there are, the Horned-Indian, Red China, White China, Peacock, and Brazilian Pheaſants.



THE BUSTARD,

IS the largeſt native land bird of Britain; the male generally weighing twenty-five pounds. It is about nine feet broad, and four feet long. The head and neck are of an aſh colour, and the back is barred tranſverſely with black, bright, and ruſt colour; the greater quill feathers are black;

black; thoſe on the belly are white; the tail, which conſiſts of twenty feathers, has broad red and black ſtripes; and the legs are of a duſky hue.

THE female is about half the ſize of the male. They were formerly much more numerous than at preſent; but the increaſed cultivation of the country, added to the extreme delicacy of its fleſh, has cauſed a great decreaſe of the ſpecies. Another circumſtance, equally unfavourable to this bird, is its amazing ſize, which renders it ſo unwieldy and ſlow in flight, as to render it almoſt impoſſible to eſcape the aim of the ſportſman.

BUSTARDS are principally found on Saliſbury Plains, Newmarket and Royſton Heaths, Dorſetſhire Uplands, and thoſe of Marſh or Lothian, in Scotland. They run very faſt; and, although ſlow in flight, will, when on the wing, continue their progreſs, without reſting, for ſeveral miles. It is with ſuch difficulty they take flight, that they are very frequently run down by Greyhounds. They ſeldom wander above twenty or thirty miles from their haunts. They live on berries, which grow on the heaths, and

and on earth-worms, that are found on the Downs before the ſun riſes.

As a ſecurity againſt drought, Nature has furniſhed the male with a pouch, that will contain near ſeven quarts of water, with which, it is ſuppoſed, they accommodate and ſupply the female while ſitting, or the young, until they can fly.

It lives about fifteen years, but cannot be domeſticated from the want of a ſufficient ſupply of the food which they delight in, which they can only obtain in their natural ſtate.

There are two other ſpecies of this bird, which are called the Indian Buſtard and Little Buſtard.

BIRDS of the PIE KIND.

THIS Claſs of Birds, though not formed for war, delight in miſchief, and are perpetually harraſſing other birds, without the leaſt apparent enmity; and includes all that noiſy, reſtleſs, chattering tribe, from the Raven to the Woodpecker, which hover about our habitations, and make free with the fruits of our induſtry.

THOUGH they contribute the leaſt of any Birds to the pleaſures or neceſſities of Man, they are as remarkable for inſtinct, as for their capacity to receive inſtruction; cunning and archneſs are peculiar to the whole tribe. They have hoarſe voices, ſlender bodies, and a facility of flight, which baffles the purſuit of all the Rapacious Kind. Of this Claſs, we ſelect the following, as moſt deſerving our attention.

THE

THE TOUCAN,

WHICH in ſize and ſhape reſembles a Jack-daw, has a remarkable large head, to ſupport an enormous bill, which, from the angles of the mouth to the point, extends ſix inches and a half in length, and upwards of two inches in breadth, in the broadeſt part, not much thicker than

than parchment. Some naturaliſts have thought, but erroneouſly, that the Toucan had no noſtrils; this miſtake, in all probability, originated from their being placed in the upper part of the bill, and, conſequently, nearly covered with feathers.

Between the white on the breaſt, and the black on the belly, are a number of red feathers, moſt beautifully formed in the ſhape of a creſcent, with the horns pointing upwards. The toes are diſpoſed in the ſame manner as thoſe of the Parrot, two before and two behind.

The Toucan is ſo eaſily tamed, that it will hatch and rear its young in houſes. Its chief food is pepper, which it is ſaid to devour like a glutton. Pozzo, who bred one of theſe birds, ſays, that it reſembles a Magpie, both in voice and motion. Naturaliſts ſeem to think, that the Toucan uſes its tongue to all thoſe purpoſes for which other birds uſe their bills. This naturally accounts for the thinneſs of the beak, which ſeems only calculated as a ſheath for the tongue, which is very large and ſtrong.

THIS bird inhabits only the warm climates of South America, where it is much eſteemed for the delicacy of its fleſh, and beauty of plumage. The feathers of the breaſt are particularly admired by the Indians, who pluck them from this part of the ſkin, and, when dry, glue them to their cheeks, which they reckon an irreſiſtible addition to female beauty.

WHEN we contemplate the Bird Creation, we cannot conſider without amazement, how variouſly Nature has formed their bills, wings, feet, and bodies, according to their different wants and peculiarities, occaſioned either by ſituation or diſpoſition; a more ſtriking inſtance of which cannot be adduced than in the bird juſt deſcribed.

THE

THE GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

THIS bird is about nine inches long, ſixteen inches in breadth, and two ounces three quarters in weight. The bill is of a black horn colour, and the forehead pale buff; the crown of the head is of a gloſſy black, and the hind part is marked with a deep rich crimſon ſpot; the cheeks

are white, bounded beneath by a black line, which paſſes from each corner of the mouth, and ſurrounds the hind part of the head; the neck is encircled with black; the throat and breaſt are of a yellowiſh white; the back, rump, coverts of the tail, and leſſer coverts of the wings, are black. The webs of the black quill feathers are elegantly marked with round white ſpots. The four middle feathers of the tail are black; the next are tipped with dirty yellow; and the ends of the two outermoſt are black. The legs are of a red colour.

THE colours of the female are the ſame as in the male, except the crimſon ſpot on the head.

THE GREEN WOODPECKER.

OF this bird there are many kinds and varieties, forming large colonies, in the foreſts of almoſt every part of the world. The wiſdom of Providence, in the admirable formation of creatures according to their reſpective natures,

natures, cannot be better exemplified than in the birds of this genus.

WOODPECKERS, feeding entirely upon inſects, and their principal action being neceſſarily that of climbing up and down the trunks or branches of trees, have a long ſlender tongue, armed with a ſharp bony end, barbed on each ſide, which, with the aſſiſtance of a curious apparatus of muſcles, they dart to a great depth into the cleſts of the bark, from whence they draw out the lurking inſects.

When this bird diſcovers a rotten, hollow tree, it cries aloud, which alarms the inſect colony, and puts them in confuſion; by which means it is the better enabled to get at the prey. By thus deſtroying theſe inſects, which are found ſometimes on trees not entirely decayed, it ſhould ſeem as if Nature had formed this bird for the expreſs purpoſe of cleanſing ſuch trees, as they are generally obſerved to thrive and flouriſh, after they have left them. They are likewiſe very uſeful in deſtroying ants, on which they feed, as well as on wood-worms and inſects.

To take ants, they adopt the following curious ſtratagem: they dart their red tongues into the ant-hill, which the ants, from the reſemblance, ſuppoſing to be their uſual prey, ſettle upon it in myriads, which is no ſooner done than they withraw their tongues, and devour them.

The Green Woodpecker is about thirteen inches long, twenty-one inches in breadth, and weighs ſix ounces and a half. The bill is hard, ſtrong, and ſhaped like a wedge. Dr. Derham ſays it has a neat ridge running along the top, which ſeems as if it was deſigned by an artiſt, both for ſtrength and beauty. The back, neck, and leſſer coverts of the wings, are green, and the rump is of a pale yellow.

To theſe may be added, the Leſſer Spotted, and Guinea Woodpeckers.

THE BIRD OF PARADISE.

ACCORDING to ſome naturaliſts, there are nine different ſorts of this bird; but Mr. Edwards deſcribes only the three following; viz. The Greater Bird of Paradiſe, the King of the Birds of Paradiſe, and the Golden Bird of Paradiſe.

THE Bird of Paradiſe, as deſcribed by Moregrave, is about the ſize of a Swallow. The feathers about the beak are as ſoft as ſilk, green and brown above, and black below; the upper part of the neck is of a gold colour, but lower down, it is gold, mixed with green; the long feathers on the ſides, near the riſe, are of a gold colour, and the other parts are of a whitiſh yellow.

THE King of the Birds of Paradiſe, mentioned by Cluſius, is the leaſt of the ſpecies.

THE Golden Bird of Paradiſe, has a gold-coloured neck and beak; the feet and toes are yellow; breaſt and back pale orange colour; and the large feathers on the wings and tail, are of a deep orange colour.

THE idea that theſe birds have no feet, is proved to be an error by Mr. Ray, who ſays, their feet are neither ſmall nor weak, but large and long, armed with crooked talons, like birds of prey.

THE great beauty and variety diſplayed in every part of the Creation, continually affords, to the contemplative mind,

mind, freſh inſtances of the power, wiſdom, and goodneſs, of the Divine and Almighty Architect.

THE Bird of Paradiſe, which is a native of the Molucca Iſlands, exceeds every other bird of the Pie Kind in beauty; a proof, that thoſe groves which produce the richeſt ſpices, produce alſo the fineſt birds. The inhabitants, ſenſible of the ſuperiority of theſe birds, call them, by way of pre-eminence, God's Birds.

THEY migrate with their King (which is ſuperior both in ſize and plumage) about Auguſt, when the ſtormy ſeaſon begins, and return when it is over.

THERE are two other Birds of Paradiſe; one of which is found in the iſland of Ceylon, but has never yet been deſcribed; the other is called the Pied Bird of Paradiſe, has a blackiſh bill, like a Duck, and a tail nearly as long as long as a Magpie.

THE CUCKOO.

THE note of this bird is known to all the world; but its hiſtory and nature remain yet undiſcovered. Some naturaliſts have aſſerted, that it devours its parent, changing its nature with the ſeaſon, when it becomes a Sparrow-hawk. But theſe fables are now ſufficiently refuted.

It

it, however, ſtill remains a ſecret where it reſides, and how it ſubſiſts in winter.

THE claws and bill of the Cuckoo are much weaker than thoſe of other rapacious birds. It is diſtinguiſhed from all others, by its note, and the round prominent noſtrils on the ſurface of the bill. The head, the upper part of the body, and the wings, are beautifully ſtriped with tawny-colour and tranſparent black; the legs are very ſhort, clothed with feathers down to the feet; and it has a large mouth, the inſide of which is yellowiſh.

THIS bird is the harbinger of ſpring, at which time it returns, to glad the huſbandman with its wonted note, as a ſignal that Nature now reſumes her vernal beauties. The note, which is a call to Love, is uſed only by the male, and continues no longer than the pairing ſeaſon.

THE young are generally nurſed by a Water-Wagtail or Hedge Sparrow, their parents always unnaturally deſerting them.

The note of the Cuckoo is pleaſant though uniform; and owes its power of pleaſing to that aſſociation of ideas which frequently render things agreeable, that would, otherwiſe, not be ſo in themſelves. Were we to hear the Cuckoo on the approach of winter, we ſhould think it a moſt lamentable noiſe; but, hearing it as we do, at the approach of ſpring, we cannot avoid thinking it the moſt agreeable, from its being attached to all thoſe enjoyments with which we know Nature is then teeming for our accommodation.

It is about fourteen inches in length, twenty-five in breadth, and weighs five ounces, little more or leſs.

BIRDS of the SPARROW KIND.

DESCENDING from the larger to the ſmaller kinds, we come to this Claſs of Birds, which live chiefly in the neighbourhood of Man, whom they ſeem to conſider as their beſt friend, filling his groves and fields with harmony, that elevates his heart to ſhare their raptures. All other Birds are either mute or ſcreaming; and it is only this diminutive tribe that have voices equal to their beauty. Great Birds ſeem to dread the vicinity of Man, while theſe alone remain in the neighbourhood of cultivation, warbling in hedge-rows, or mixing with the poultry, in the farm-yard.

THEY are remarkably brave; often fighting until one of them yields up its life with the victory. When young,

they are fed upon worms and inſects; but, when grown up, they feed principally upon grain. As they devour great ſwarms of pernicious vermin, which deſtroy the root before the vegetable is grown, they are particularly uſeful to the farmer and gardener.

THE beſt vocal performers of this muſical tribe, are, the Nightingale, Thruſh, Blackbird, Lark, Redbreaſt, Blackcap, Wren, Canary-bird, Linnet, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Brambling, Yellow-hammer, and Fiſkin.

THIS Claſs being too extenſive to be fully deſcribed in ſo ſmall a volume, we ſhall ſelect only a few of the moſt curious, beginning with the Blackbird. But, in order to compenſate for our brevity in this place, we ſhall annex, at the end of the volume, a particular account of the treatment and food, proper for the different Song-birds peculiar to this iſland, which, we doubt not, will be a very uſeful reference to thoſe who delight in keeping theſe entertaining little warblers.

THE BLACKBIRD.

THIS bird, which is the Herald that uſhers in the welcome Spring, ſeems, by its melody, to awaken the reſt of the feathered creation from their lethargy, and allure them to the pleaſures of the approaching ſeaſon. They generally breed about the latter end of March, or beginning

April, laying four or five eggs, which are of a blueiſh green colour, and irregularly marked with duſky ſpots. Their neſts are conſtructed, in a very ingenious manner, with moſs, twigs, and fibres of roots, ſtrongly cemented; the inſides being plaiſtered with clay, and covered with hair, and other ſoft materials. They uſually build in hedges, near the ground, and before the foliage expands, which, added to the magnitude of the neſt, renders it eaſy to be diſcovered.

THE plumage of the male, when at full age, which is a year, is of a fine deep black, while the bill, as well as the edges of the eyelids, are of a beautiful bright yellow; but before they attain this age, the bill is duſky, and the plumage of a ruſty black.

THEY continue ſinging till the moulting ſeaſon draws near, when they naturally deſiſt; they will, however, when they have done moulting, reſume their note for a ſhort time previous to the winter.

THE STARLING.

THE Stare, or Starling, may be diſtinguiſhed from the reſt of the Sparrow tribe, by the variegation of its feathers, which in ſome lights ſhow a gloſſy green, and in others, a beautiful purple. The feathers of the head, neck, and upper part of the breaſt, are black, interſperſed

ſperſed with feathers of different colours, which cauſes it to vary, as above deſcribed.

STARLINGS aſſemble in vaſt flocks during winter, and feed upon worms and inſects; but, on the approach of ſpring, they meet in the fields, as if to conſult; during this time, which laſts ſeveral days, they ſeem to abſtain from all kind of nouriſhment. Some few breed here, but they emigrate in general.

SUCH is the capacity of this bird to receive inſtruction, that it will imitate the human voice to the greateſt nicety. Sterne, in his Sentimental Journey, gives a very entertaining account of one of theſe birds which he met with on his travels.

IF a Starling is taken when about ten days old, and properly taught, it is a very valuable bird, and will fetch frequently five or ſix guineas.

THE

THE GREAT TITMOUSE.

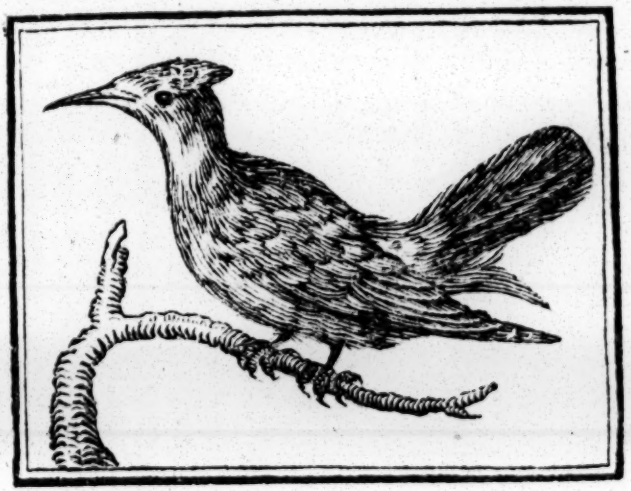
THIS bird, which is alſo called the Ox-Eye, is about ſix inches in length, nine inches broad, and in weight half an ounce. The bill is black, ſtraight, and about half an inch long; the tongue is broad, ending in four filaments; the head and throat are black, cheeks white, back,

back, and coverts of the wings, green; quill-feathers duſky, tipped with blue and white; the leſſer coverts are blue, the greater ones tipped with white; the tail, which is about two inches and a half in length, is black, edged with blue.

ALTHOUGH theſe birds occaſionally viſit our gardens, yet they chiefly inhabit the woods, where they build their neſts in hollow trees, laying nine or ten eggs. Their food conſiſts, principally, of inſects, which they find in great numbers in the trees. Thus we perceive, that birds are formed, not only to delight the ear and pleaſe the eye, but alſo to ſerve us, by deſtroying thoſe vermin, which do incredible miſchief to our ruſtic poſſeſſions. As we can have no enjoyment, however, without ſome mixture of alloy, the Titmouſe frequently injures our fruit-gardens, by deſtroying the tender buds.

LIKE the Woodpecker, it is continually running up and down the trunks of trees, ſearching for food.

THE



THE LARGE-CRESTED HUMMING-BIRD.

THERE is a great variety in this ſpecies of birds, which, although the ſmalleſt of the feathered tribe, are by far the moſt beautiful, inoffenſive, and delighting. They are from the ſize of the Wren to a Humble Bee. What a beautiful contraſt does this little bird afford, in the

the ſcale of Creation, when preſented by the ſide of the largeſt Oſtrich, forming the two extremes! and how can we ſufficiently admire the workmanſhip of Providence, in having created ſuch varieties for our uſe, entertainment, and aſſiſtance!

In America they ſwarm like Bees, ranging from flower to flower, extracting the ſweets; in which they ſeem to connect the inſect and bird creation together.

The head of this beautiful bird is adorned with a creſt, green at bottom, and bright gold-colour at top; the body, and under the wings, is brown and green intermixed, and gloſſed with a beautiful red; the bill is black, ſtraight, and ſlender; the eyes black and ſparkling.

They are called Humming Birds, from the noiſe produced by the motion of their wings. Their neſts, about half the ſize of a hen's egg, are curiouſly ſuſpended at the end of the twigs of an orange or pomgranate tree.

There are alſo, the Larger Humming Bird, Long-tailed Black-capped Humming Bird, Little Humming Bird with crooked bill, Green, and Aſh-coloured Humming Birds.

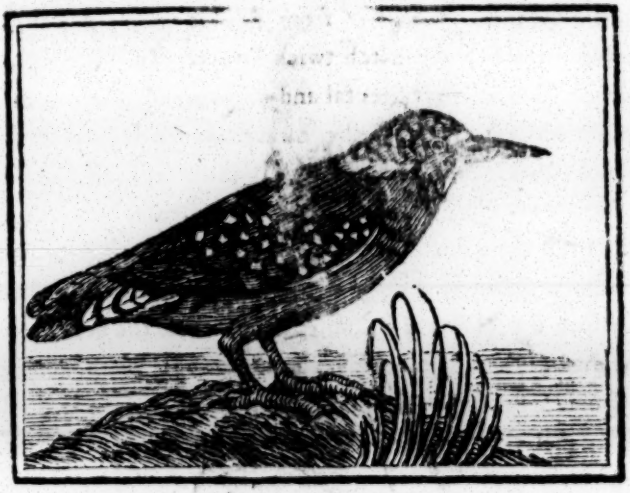
THE HOOPOE.

THIS very handſome feathered viſitant, according to the ingenious Mr. Walcot, in his Synopſis, juſt publiſhed in quarto, anſwers the following very curious and intereſting deſcription:

ON

On the top of the head is a creſt, conſiſting of a double row of feathers, the higheſt of which are about two inches in length, of a pale orange colour, with black ends: the neck is of a pale reddiſh brown, the upper parts of which are croſſed with broad bars of black and white; the leſſer coverts of the wings are of a light brown, and the lower parts white; the tail, which is white, conſiſts of ten black feathers, which are marked with a white creſcent; the legs are black. It is twelve inches in length, and nineteen inches in breadth.

A few of theſe beautiful birds migrate to this country in the ſummer, and feed on inſects. It is ſaid to make no neſt, but to lay about ſeven aſh-coloured eggs, in the holes of trees, walls, or on the ground.



THE KING FISHER.

THIS beautiful bird, which inhabits almoſt every country, may be ſaid to vie, in elegance of plumage, with the Parrot, the Peacock, or even the ſplendid ſhadings of the Humming Bird. It is larger than the Swallow; moſtly frequents the banks of rivers, and makes its neſt at the root

root of ſome decayed tree, which it lines with the down of the willow. They lay from five to nine white eggs before they ſit, and hatch twice a year. In this bird we have an inſtance of parental and conjugal affection, which might ſhame many of the human race; as a proof of which, that ingenious author, Reaumur, ſays, that he had a female of this ſpecies brought to his houſe, upwards of three leagues from her neſt. After having admired her beautiful colours, he let her fly again, when the fond creature was obſerved inſtantly to return to the neſt where ſhe had juſt before been made a captive; when joining her mate, ſhe began again to lay, though it was the third time, and the ſeaſon very far advanced. She had ſeven eggs each time. The fidelity of the male exceeds even that of the Turtle. While the hen is ſitting, and during the helpleſs ſtate of her callous brood, he ſupplies her with fiſh, which he takes with the greateſt expertneſs, and in large quantities; inſomuch, that at this ſeaſon, ſhe, contrary to moſt other birds, is fat, and in fine feather.

Several writers have confounded the Halcyon with the King Fiſher. The Halcyon, it is ſaid, breeds in May, in

in the banks of ſtreams, near the ſea; after the firſt hatch is reared, it returns to lay again in the ſame neſt. Pliny and Ariſtotle ſay, that the Halcyon is common in the ſeas of Sicily; that it ſits only a few days, in the depth of winter, in a neſt that ſwims on the ſea; during which time, it is ſaid, the mariner may ſail with the greateſt ſafety. But another author, with more probability, ſays, that the little Halcyon bird is found on the ſhores and rocks up the Mediterranean, near Sicily; that, at the latter end of ſummer, ſhe builds a neſt, with fiſh bones and ſea weeds, ſo curious and impregnable, as to ſwim and hatch her young on the ſea, which at that time is particularly calm and ſerene. This has given riſe to a proverbial ſaying, when we allude to any particular period of our lives, wherein we have experienced uninterrupted happineſs, which are called *Halcyon days*.

BIRDS of the CRANE KIND.

THIS Claſs is inferior to every other in building their neſts, being leſs curious than thoſe of the Sparrow Kind; the method they uſe to obtain their food, is alſo leſs ingenious than thoſe of the Falcon Kind; the Pie Kind excel them in cunning; while the Poultry Kind are more prolific. None of this kind being, therefore, protected by Man, they lead a precarious life in fens and marſhes, where they feed upon fiſh and inſects; for which purpoſe Nature has provided them with long necks, to enable them to dive for their prey, and long legs, to keep their bodies dry and clean.

THOSE only which feed on inſects are eatable.

THE

THE STORK.

THIS bird is ſimilar to the Crane, but more remarkable, both in figure and diſpoſition. The feathers are white and brown; and the nails are flat, like thoſe of a Man. It makes no other noiſe, but that of clacking its under bill againſt the upper. Contrary to the general diſpoſition

poſition of Nature, it has as much, if not more, filial affection towards its parents, than paternal affection for its offspring; for, when the old ones are ſo far advanced in years, as to be incapable of providing for themſelves, the young ones will ſerve them with food in the hour of neceſſity, cover and cheriſh them with their wings, and even carry them on their backs to a great diſtance. What an example is this of filial piety! Who can obſerve this affectionate bird, feeding and defending its aged and helpleſs parent, till Death relieves them from their anxiety, without exclaiming, *O ye children, imitate this amiable example; let not a ſimple bird upbraid and condemn you; but, on the contrary, let it ſtimulate you to the diſcharge of this moſt pleaſing duty; let it recall to your mind the anxious days and ſleepleſs nights they have endured, in nurſing, protecting, and promoting your welfare; and you will not fail to imitate the Stork, in ſoothing their decline of life, with the lenients of your love, care, obedience, and gratitude.*

THE HERON.

THIS bird may be diſtinguiſhed from the Crane and Stork, by its ſmaller ſize; by the bill, which is much longer in proportion; and alſo by the middle claw of each foot, which are toothed like a ſaw, to enable it ſieze, and more ſecurely hold, its ſlippery prey.

So

So numerous is the tribe of Herons, that Briſſon has enumerated forty-ſeven different ſorts. Though exceſſively voracious, they are always lean and hungry, weighing no more than about three pounds and a half each, notwithſtanding they meaſure three feet in length, and five in breadth. Although it is moſt formidably armed with bill and claws, it is ſo cowardly as to fly from a Sparrow-Hawk. Fiſh and frogs are its chief food; but it cannot endure a long abſtinence. Its voracity is ſuch, that Willoughby ſays, one of them will deſtroy 15,000 carp in ſix months. It lives among pools and marſhes, where it wades after its prey; and builds in the higheſt trees, or on cliffs hanging over the ſea.

The fleſh of this bird, which is now thought diſguſting, was formerly much eſteemed. What an inſtance is this of the capricious taſte of Man!

Keysler ſays, that the Heron very frequently lives to the age of ſixty years.

THE EGRET, OR GREAT WHITE HERON.

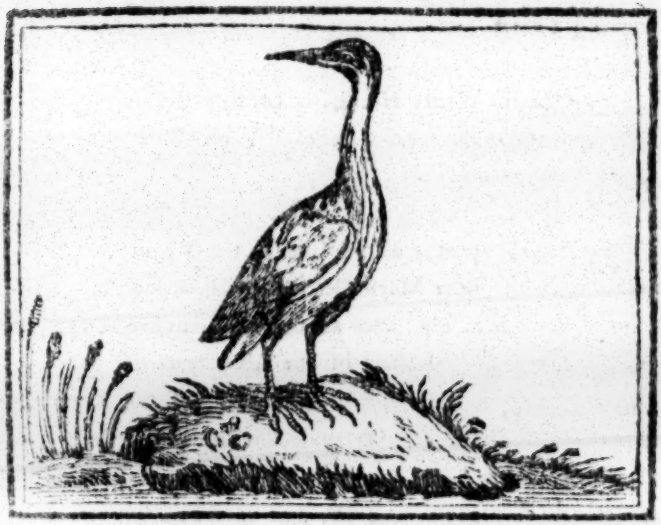
THE length of this bird, from the bill to the claws, is four feet and a half, and to the end of the tail, three feet and a quarter; and the weight about two pounds and a half. It is entirely white, which diſtinguiſhes it from the common Heron, which is rather larger; has a longer tail, and no creſt; and is ſeldom ſeen in England.

The Leſſer White Heron only differs in ſize, and by having a creſt.

The Little White Heron, according to Cateſby, has a crooked red bill, with a yellow iris on the eyes, a white body, and green feet.

To the above may alſo be added, the Yellow and Green Heron, found near Marſeilles; the bill of which is black above, yellow below, and about three inches long; the iris, as well as that part of the neck next the chin, are white; but the reſt of the neck, top of the head, the breaſt, and belly, are variegated with brown lines; the feathers on the back are black; the wings are yellowiſh, ſpotted with black; and the tail is ſtuck with feathers greatly reſembling hair. The thighs are of an aſh colour; and the feet are black, with yellow claws.

The



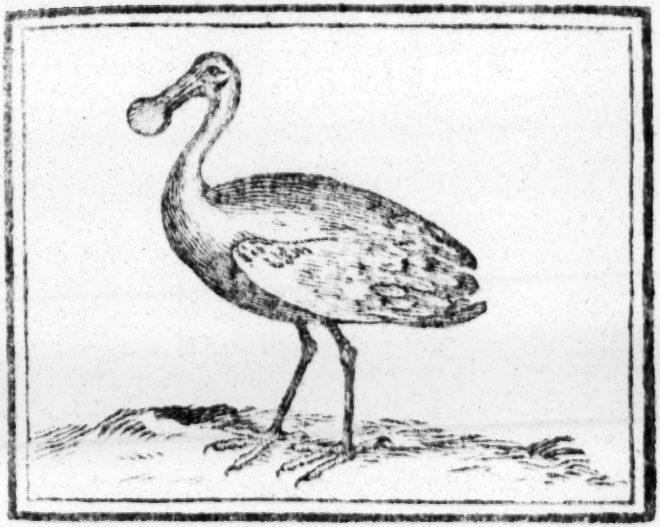
THE LITTLE, OR BRAZIL BITTERN.

THIS bird is ſmaller than the Common Pigeon, although the neck is ſeven inches in length. The ſkin, at the baſe of the bill, is yellowiſh; the upper part of the head is of a ſteel colour, interſperſed with pale brown feathers; the neck, breaſt, and belly, are whitiſh; and

the back is a mixture of black and brown; the long feathers of the wings are of a greeniſh hue, with a white ſpot at each extremity: all the other parts of this bird are beautifully variegated with black, brown, and aſh colour. The bill, which is long, ſtraight, and ſharp, is black at the point; the iris of the eyes is of a gold colour; and the tail is ſo ſhort, that it does not extend beyond the wings.

To the above may be added, of the ſame ſpecies, the Common Bittern, the North American Bittern, and the Small Bittern.

THE



THE SPOON-BILL, OR SHOVELLER.

WHO can behold this ſtrange and ſingular bird, without adoring the wiſdom of the Great Creator of the Univerſe! The bill of this bird alone, is a convincing proof of the great care of Providence to preſerve his creatures. This bill is about eight inches long, and of equal breadth

and flatneſs from one end to the other; but, contrary to that of all other birds, inſtead of being wideſt at the baſe, and narroweſt at the point, it is exactly the reverſe, ſwelling into a broad rounded end, like the bowl of a ſpoon, from which it derives its name. It is, however, not hollow, like a ſpoon; but, whether cloſed or open, it has a very ſingular appearance.

THIS bird is as white as ſnow, and, from its cleanlineſs, looks wonderfully pretty. It is common in Europe, and frequents the waters.

THE bill is moſt peculiarly formed for the neceſſities of this bird; as feeding principally on frogs, which, by their cunning and activity, avoid the birds with pointed bills, the Spoon-bill, by being notched and toothed all round, is better adapted, not only to take theſe animals, but alſo to prevent their eſcape after they are caught.

THE Spoon-bill of America, is of a delightful roſe-colour, or beautiful crimſon.

THE

THE FLAMINGO.

THIS bird is another inſtance of the care of the Creator, in providing for every creature according to their reſpective neceſſities. Thus we ſee the Flamingo, which lives about the ſhallow ſhores of the ſea, and the mouths of rivers, provided with a moſt uncommon length of

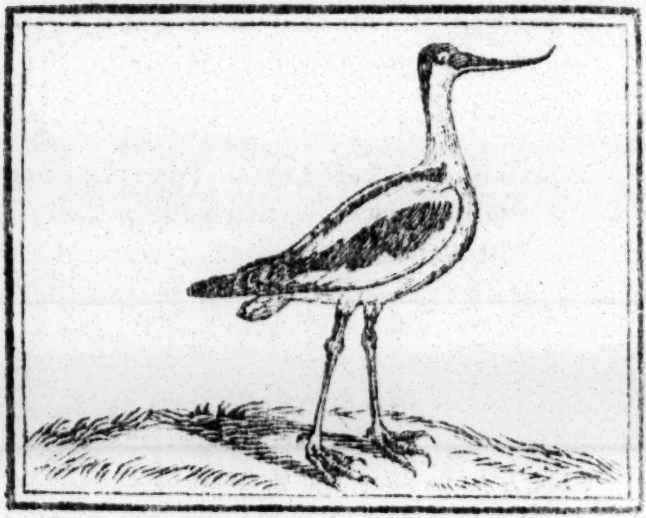
neck and legs; the latter of which are ſo long, that, when walking in the water, it appears as if ſwimming; and the head, which is almoſt conſtantly under water, in ſearch of food, makes the bird ſeem no larger than a Gooſe, the body being then only perceptible. But how great is the aſtoniſhment of the ſpectator, when, on coming out of the water, it preſents itſelf, in height of legs and neck, like an Oſtrich! Its height is not only ſuperior to that of any other bird, but its beauty is ſcarcely to be equalled. The body is ſnow-white; the wings are of ſo bright a ſcarlet, as to dazzle the ſight; and the long feathers are of the deepeſt black: the beak is blue, except at the tip, which is black, and ſo ſingular in ſhape, as to appear broken: the legs and thighs, which are not much thicker than a man's finger, are about two feet eight inches in length; and the neck nearly three feet more; the toes are webbed, like thoſe of the Duck, which enables it to ſwim for the preſervation of its life, which would be otherwiſe ſometimes in danger, by the ſudden riſe of wind and water, while ſtanding to a great depth, in ſearch of prey, by carrying it out to ſea, where it might periſh for want of ſubſiſtance.

A DIS-

A DISH of Flamingos' tongues, Dampier ſays, is a feaſt for an Emperor.

FLAMINGOS always go in flocks, and are found in vaſt numbers in Canada. Their neſts are formed of mud, reſembling very much our chimney pots. When the female lays her eggs, ſhe ſits aſtride the neſt, with her legs hanging in the water.

"THOSE who admire," ſays a learned writer, "the "wonderful means, by which the God of Nature has "contrived, that thoſe animals, which He has endued "with a leſſer principle than reaſon, ſhould provide themſelves with food, and ſecure their exiſtence, during a "life in which they are liable to innumerable accidents, "would add a great deal to the meaſure of their ſurpriſe, "did they comprehend the variety of thoſe means."



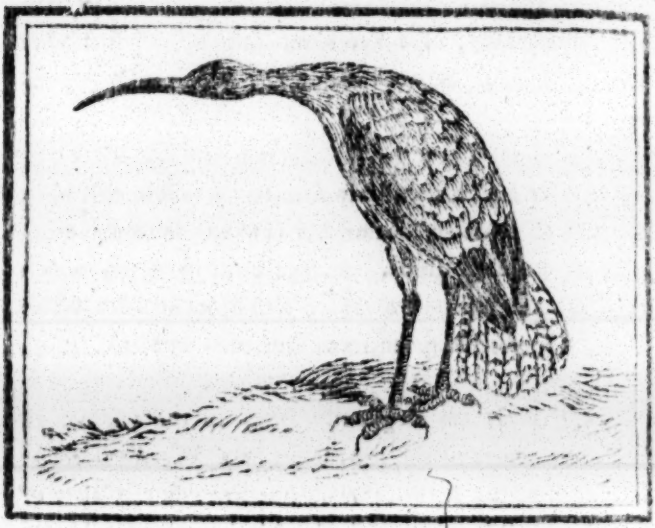
THE AVOSETTA, OR SCOOPER.

THE Avoſetta is diſtinguiſhed from all other birds, by the bill, which turns up inſtead of down, being about three inches an a half in length, compreſſed very thin, and of a flexible ſubſtance, reſembling whalebone. The tongue is ſhort; the head, and greateſt part of the body, is

is black: the tail conſiſts of twelve white feathers; the legs are very long, of a fine blue, and featherleſs higher than the knee; the webs are duſky, and very deeply indented.

NATURE has ſo peculiarly formed the bill of this bird, to enable it to ſcoop out of the ſand the worms and inſects, on which it feeds. It lays but two eggs, which are about the ſize of thoſe of the Pigeon, of a white colour, tinged with green, and ſpotted with black.

THESE birds are frequently ſeen, in the winter, on the eaſtern ſhores of the kingdom; in Glouceſterſhire, at the mouth of the Severn; and ſometimes on the lakes of Shropſhire. They have a lively chirping note, and very frequently wade in the waters.



THE CURLEW.

THIS bird is, in length, from the top of the bill to the end of the claws, twenty-nine inches; and the breadth, between the extreme points of the wings, when extended, is three feet four inches: the bill, which is nearly six inches long, is narrow, a little crooked, and of a dark brown

brown colour; the legs are long, bare, and of a duſky blue, with a thick membrane meeting at the firſt joint, and marked with irregular brown ſpots.

THIS bird is of a greyiſh colour, and the fleſh very rank and fiſhy, notwithſtanding the Engliſh proverb in its favour. They frequent our coaſts in large flocks, in the winter time, walking on the ſands, in ſearch of their prey, which conſiſts of crabs, and other marine inſects. In the ſummer, they retire to the mountainous parts of the country, where they pair and breed.

THE Leſſer Curlew, called alſo the Wimbrel, greatly reſembles this bird; the chief difference being in the ſize, this weighing only twelve ounces, whereas the other weighs twenty-ſeven ounces.

THE WOODCOCK.

THIS bird, which is ſmaller than a Partridge, is fourteen inches in length, twenty-ſix inches broad, and about twelve ounces in weight. It has a ſtraight bill, which is three inches long, the upper one falling a little over the under at the tip; it is of a duſky colour towards the end, and reddiſh at the baſe; the forehead is aſh-colour, and a black line extends from the bill to the eyes; the head, neck, back, and coverts of the wings, are irregularly barred with red, black, grey, and aſh-colour; but, on the head, the black is moſt predominant. The eggs are long, of a pale red, with ſpots and clouds of a deeper colour. The fleſh is reckoned a great delicacy.

IN the ſummer, they inhabit the Alps of Norway, Sweden, and other northern parts of Europe; but, when the froſt commences, they retire to France, Germany, Italy, and Great Britain.

Of

Of WATER FOWL in General.

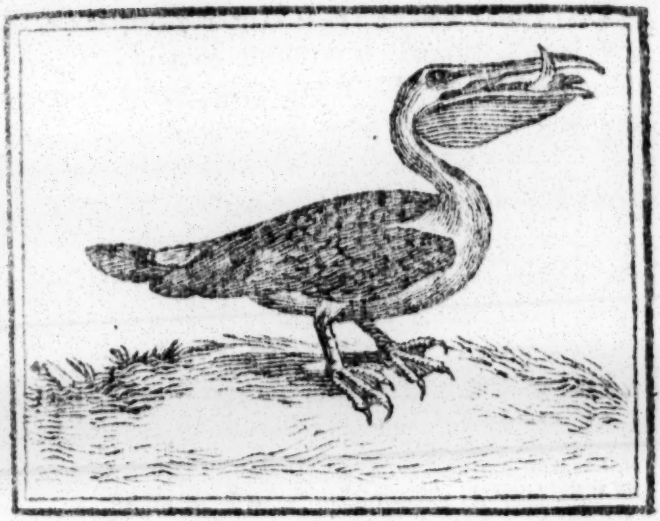
THE principal diſtinction between Land and Water Fowl, is, that the toes of the latter are webbed for ſwimming. Thoſe who obſerve the feet or toes of a Duck, will eaſily conceive how admirably they are formed to move in that watery element, to which they are moſtly deſtined. What Man performs by art, when he cloſes his fingers in ſwimming, the Water Fowl is ſupplied by Nature to perform. The toes are ſo contrived, that, as they ſtrike backward, the broadeſt hollow ſurface beats the water; but, as they draw them in again, their front ſurface contracts, ſo as not to impede their progreſſive motion.

THE legs of the Water Fowl are generally very ſhort, which cauſes them to walk with much difficulty; they, therefore, ſeldom breed far from the ſides of waters, where they uſually reſort.

THOSE of this Claſs, which have long legs, are ranked among the Crane Kind; ſuch as the Flamingo, Avoſetta, &c. which, although their feet are webbed for ſwimming, they ſeldom make uſe of for that purpoſe; a proof that their webbed feet are given them for the purpoſe of preventing their ſinking in the muddy ſhores, which they frequent in ſearch of their prey.

WE ſhall ſelect a few of thoſe moſt worthy the notice of our readers, taking the Pelican as the firſt ſubject for deſcription.

THE



THE PELICAN.

TRAVELLERS, and thoſe who are fond of the marvellous, have related ſtrange accounts of this bird. The tale reſpecting the care of its young, has been ſo generally received, as to be frequently adduced as an example for Man to imitate.

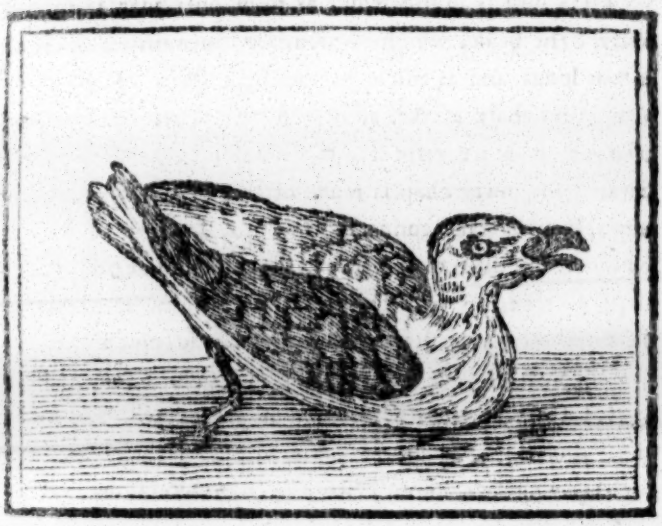
THIS

THIS bird is ſo unwieldy, as to be only adapted for the water; the beak, which is peculiarly uncommon, is about a foot long, and as thick as the fleſhy part of a child's arm, very ſharp at the point, and of a blue and yellow colour; in other reſpects, it differs very little from the Swan: the lower chap is made of two long flat ribs, with a rough membrane connected to both, in form of a bag, which, extending to the throat, holds a conſiderable quantity of food, which ſupplies it in times of ſcarcity. Feeding her young from this bag, has ſo much the appearance of feeding them with their own blood, that it cauſed this fabulous opinion to be propagated, and made the Pelican an emblem of paternal, as the Stork had before been choſen, more juſtly, of filial affection.

THE voice of this bird is harſh and diſſonant; ſome compare it to the braying of an aſs, while others ſay it reſembles the voice of a man grievouſly complaining. David compares his groaning to the Pelican of the wilderneſs, and the Owl of the deſert.

IT lives ſixty or ſeventy years.

THE



THE FULMAR.

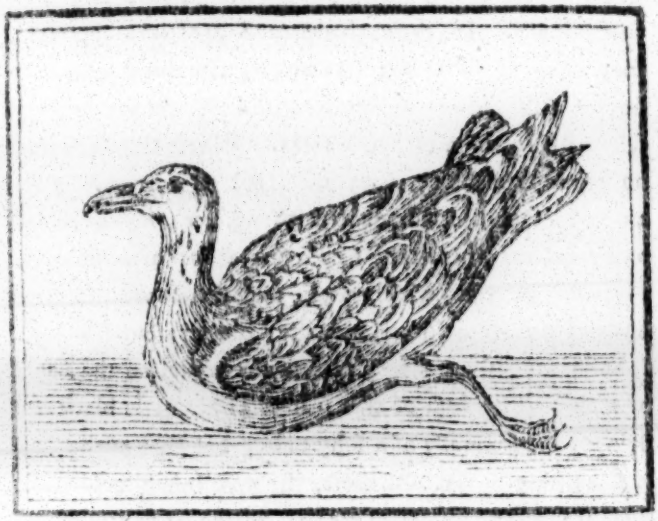
THIS bird is found in the iſland of St. Kilda, where it ſupplies the inhabitants with oil for their lamps, down for their beds, a balſam for their wounds, a delicacy for their tables, and a medicine for their diſeaſes. It likewiſe denotes a change of wind.

THIS

THIS bird is larger than the common Gull; the bill is very ſtrong, yellow, and hooked at the end. Inſtead of a black toe, it has a kind of ſtraight ſpan. It feeds on the blubber of fat Whales, and on ſorrel. It will leap and prey on a newly caught Whale, even while alive; and is ſo voracious, as to eat until it is obliged, through repletion, to diſgorge its food.

WHALES are frequently diſcovered by means of theſe birds, which collect together in vaſt numbers, and follow them, in hopes of prey, as Sharks follow ſhips that have diſeaſe on board, with the ſame expectation. The blubber on which they feed is what furniſhes them with the oil above mentioned. They ſeem, therefore, as if created for the purpoſe of ſupplying the inhabitants of that part of the globe with a commodity ſo eſſential to light them in thoſe regions, which could not otherwiſe be cheared from the wintry gloom.

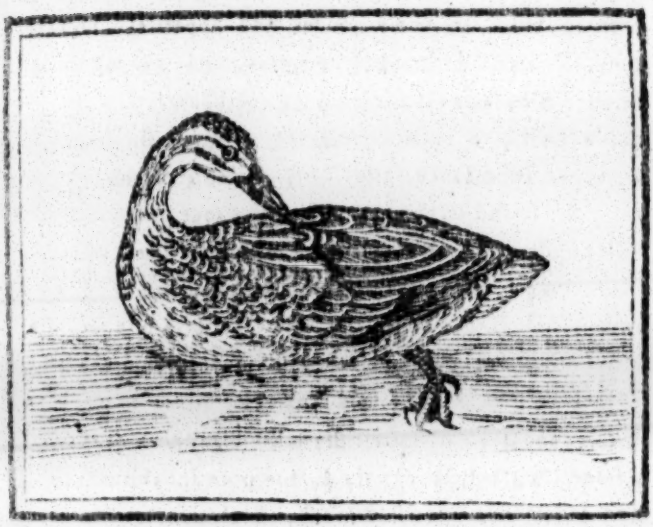
THE



THE GULL AND PETREL.

OF theſe birds, the larger ſort are moſt ſhy, and live at the greateſt diſtance, while the ſmaller ſort reſide wherever they can take their prey. They are principally diſtinguiſhed by an angular knob on the lower chap of the bill, which the Petrels have not. The Sea Swallow, which

which is alſo of this ſpecies, has a ſtraight, ſlender, ſharp pointed bill. In their abodes and appetites, however, they all agree, hovering over rivers, and preying on the ſmaller fiſh, as well as following the ploughman into the fallow fields, to pick up inſects. When they can find no other ſubſiſtance, they will feed on carrion. They are to be found in the greateſt abundance on our boldeſt rocky ſhores, where they find a retreat for their young, in the cavities with which thoſe rocks abound. Like all birds of the Rapacious Kind, the Gull lays but few eggs. It builds its neſt, of long graſs and ſea weeds, on the ledges of rocks. The fleſh of this ſpecies of birds, is black and ſtringy, and generally of a fiſhy taſte; but that of the Gull is ſomething better. Of theſe, the poor inhabitants make their ſcanty and wretched meals. Strangers to almoſt any other food, ſalted Gull proves to them the greateſt dainty. Thus we perceive, that neceſſity can even create a comfort, by giving a reliſh to the coarſeſt diet.



THE TAME DUCK.

THIS is the moſt eaſily reared of all our domeſtic birds, the very inſtinct of the young leading them directly to their favourite element; nay, even when hatched by a Hen, which ſometimes happens, they ſeek the water, contrary to every admonition of the foſter-parent.

Or

Of the Tame Duck, there are no leſs than ten different varieties; but Briſſon reckons upwards of twenty ſorts of the Wild Duck. The principal diſtinction between the ſpecies is, that the Tame Duck has black, and the Wild Duck, yellow feet. The common ſpecies of Tame Duck take their origin from the Mallard.

Ducks require very little charge in keeping, living chiefly on loſt corn, ſnails, &c. for which reaſon they are very uſeful in gardens. When they ſit, they require no attendance, except ſprinkling a little barley, or refuſe corn near them, which will prevent their ſtraying.

Of the Duck ſpecies, there are alſo the Eider, Wild, Velvet, Tufted, Pin-tail, Grey-headed, White-bellied, Barbary, Madagaſcar, and Bahama Ducks.

Wild Ducks are taken in decoys, and in ſuch vaſt quantities, that upwards of £.30,000. worth of Wild Ducks, Wigeon, and Teal, have been ſent up, in one ſeaſon, from the decoys in the neighbourhood of Wainfleet only.

A DESCRIPTIVE

A

DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT

OF THE

ENGLISH SONG BIRDS;

With PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS for Chuſing, Breeding, Feeding, and Teaching them to Sing.

ABERDIVINE.---This bird reſembles, in ſize and colour, the Grey Canary. The cock is diſtinguiſhed by a black ſpot on his head, and a little black under the throat; the hen is greyer, with a ſpotted breaſt and belly. They are both familiar, and eaſily taken.

FOOD.---They love white ſeed; but are moſtly fed as Linnets and Goldfinches.

BLACK-

BLACKBIRD.---For the deſcription, ſee p. 207.

Food.---When young, feed them every two hours with freſh lean meat, minced very ſmall, and mixed with bread, a little moiſtened. When older, they may be fed with any raw, or dreſſed meat, if not ſtale or ſour. They ſhould have water, to waſh and prune their feathers.

BULLFINCH.---This bird is in great eſtimation for its beautiful plumage, as well as finging, and alſo for its familiarity and tractability. It may be taught to pipe and talk, while perching on the finger, which renders it very engaging. To diſtinguiſh the cock from the hen, pull a few feathers from the breaſt, at about three weeks old, when thoſe of the cock will be of a curious red, while thoſe of the hen will be pale brown.

In order to teach this bird to pipe with propriety, a flageiet or bird organ ſhould be made uſe of, while they are in the neſt, and unfledged; which, if properly attended to, they will retain a tune with the greateſt exactneſs. Although the hen is not ſo beautiful in plumage as the cock, yet, with attention, ſhe will very frequently pipe, and talk equally well with the male.

Food.

Food.---When young, give them rape-ſeed, ſoaked in clear water for eight or ten hours, then ſcald, ſtrain, and bruiſe it, and mix it with an equal quantity of white bread, ſoaked in water, boiled with a little milk; it muſt be made freſh every day, to prevent its turning ſour, and ſpoiling the birds. When they can feed themſelves, give them rape and canary-ſeed, mixing moſt rape, as for Linnets. If they droop, put a blade of ſaffron in their water.

CANARY BIRD. This being the moſt eſtimable bird for its note, among thoſe who delight in ſinging birds, although of foreign origin, we could not avoid inſerting a ſhort account of it.

It derives its name from the Canary Iſles, its original native country. Of the ſeveral colours, thoſe which have white tails are the leaſt valued. The mottled birds are thoſe which are chiefly brought into this country by the Germans. The cocks are of a lively yellowiſh colour, the hens of a duſky white.

To chooſe a good Canary, obſerve that he ſtands bold, ſtraight, and upright, upon his perch; let his looks be ſprightly,

ſprightly, full of life and vigour; let him look freely at you, while looking at him, without fluttering or beating himſelf.

Food.—Give him, now and then, maw-ſeed, in which he principally delights, and ſometimes a bit of loaf-ſugar between the wires of his cage; in warm weather, a little ſeedy chick-weeed or groundſel. The fine leaf of a young radiſh, heart of a cabbage, coſs, Sileſia lettuce, or endive, will ſerve to vary their food, which, being thus changed, will prevent his loſs of appetite and ſickneſs, cauſed by keeping him on the ſame diet.

CHAFFINCH. The cock Chaffinch, at about ten or twelve days old, has much white in his wings and pinions, with a reddiſh breaſt, and all his feathers higher, and more brilliantly coloured, than thoſe of the hen. An old cock has a blueiſh head, reddiſh brown back, mixed with green and aſh colour, fine purple red breaſt, and a white belly. The breaſt of the hen is grey.

This bird is very docile and familiar, and may be taught, with attention, any tune; if put in company with

with other birds it will imitate their notes. The cocks will couple with the Canary-bird.

FOOD.—Rape and Canary-ſeed.

GOLD-FINCH. This bird, which is greatly admired for ſong and beauty, is the fineſt feathered of all cage birds, and ſo long-lived, that Willoughby mentions one to have lived twenty-three years. The cock is diſtinguiſhed by a curious ſcarlet circle round the fore part of his head, or baſis of the bill.

FOOD.—When young, give them white bread, ſoaked in clean water, to a very thick conſiſtence. To this, add a little flour of canary-ſeed. They ſhould be fed at leaſt every two hours, but very ſparingly, and with freſh food every day. In about a month, you may wean them gradually from this ſoft food, by laying ſome canary ſeed beſide, until they can be brought to live on it entirely.

GREEN-FINCH, Green-Linnet, or Green-Bird, is of a hardy nature, and rather larger than the Chaffinch. The

The head and back of the cock are green, edged with grey. The middle of the back inclining to cheſnut. The fore part of the head, neck, breaſt, quite down the belly and rump, are of a yellow green.

FOOD.—The ſame as the Chaffinch.

COMMON LINNET. This bird is ſaid to excel all the ſmall Engliſh birds in ſinging. The note is curious; and he can imitate the ſong of any other bird. The cock has a browner back than the hen, and more white in its wings. When the wings are full grown, the ſecond, third, or fourth feather, is white up to the quill.

FOOD.—They ſhould be fed with ſeed gathered from the land where they are taken, mixed with a little bruiſed hemp-ſeed. When caged, give them a ſmall quantity of canary, and a few corns of hemp. If drooping, a little lettuce-ſeed, and a ſmall piece of liquorice or ſaffron put into their water. Chick-weed is alſo a great reſtorative to the Linnet.

NIGHTINGALE.

NIGHTINGALE. The Nightingale is reckoned the beſt of ſong-birds. In grown birds, the cock is diſtinguiſhed by its deeper and higher colours. In neſtlings, when he has eaten, he gets upon the perch, and begins to tune to himſelf.

FOOD.—Give him, three times a week, two or three meal-worms, or ſpiders, to purge him. When his fat declines, give him a little ſaffron in his water. Figs, chopped ſmall among their meat, will recover their fleſh when very thin.

RED-POLE. This bird is very prettily feathered; the head and breaſt of the cock being of a fine red, and much more brilliant than thoſe of the hen. It is not much eſteemed for its ſinging, although it has rather an agreeable note. Its neſt never being found in England, denotes it to be a foreign bird.

FOOD.—The ſame as the Linnet.

RED-START. The cock is a very beautiful bird. The tail, rump, and breaſt, are of a fine red. The back, neck, and hind part of the head, are of a lead colour,

colour. The throat, and fore part of the head, are jet black, and it has a white mark on the pole. He is diſtinguiſhed moſtly from his black head. He doubles his notes very finely, and will ſing in the night as well as the day.

FOOD.—The ſame as the Nightingale.

ROBIN-RED-BREAST. This bird, which is naturally ſolitary, will, when impelled by cold, become daring, familiar, and ſociable. The red on the breaſt of the cock is deeper, and extends farther upon the head than that of the hens. His legs are alſo darker, and he has generally a few hairs on each ſide his bill.

FOOD.—The ſame as the Wood-lark, or Nightingale, but be careful not to overcharge their ſtomachs. Never let them want freſh water, and, once a week, put in it a blade of ſaffron.

SKY-LARK. At about a month old, the cock may be known by his notes, which, though low, are diſtinctly altered. In old birds, the cock is the lighted coloured,

coloured, has a browner back, a yellower throat and breaſt, and a white belly.

Food.—Give them egg, bread, and bruiſed hemp-ſeed, with red ſand at the bottom of the cage, and they will grow tame in two or three days. The neſtlings ſhould be fed, every two hours, with white bread and milk, mixed with one third part of rape-ſeed, ſoaked, boiled, and well bruiſed. A ſheep's heart, or other freſh meat, minced ſmall, is good food for them; and now and then, they ſhould have a hard egg chopped very fine, an equal quantity of hemp-ſeed bruiſed, and a little bread grated among it. Give them a turf of three-leaved graſs twice a week to perch upon.

SPARROW. The Hedge Sparrow may be tamed ſo as to fly about the houſe, without any apprehenſion of its ſtraying. It will take the ſong of the beſt ſinging-birds, if properly placed with them. The cock has a long, ſlender, duſky coloured bill. The upper ſide of his body is black, mixed with a dirty red, and the breaſt is black.

Food.—When taken, feed them, at twelve days old, with minced freſh meat and bread, or Woodlark's meat. When brought up, give them hemp and canary. If drooping, mix it with a little oatmeal.

STARLING. Having deſcribed the Starling in page 209 of this volume, we have only to obſerve that their food is the ſame as that of the Blackbird, or Woodlark.

THRUSH or THROSTLE. The Thruſh has a great variety of note, and ſings nine months in the year. The feathers of the cock differ from thoſe of the hen, in beauty, ſleekneſs, and brilliancy.

Food.—When full grown, feed them with freſh meat, raw, or dreſſed, with bread. This agrees beſt with them, though they may be brought to feed entirely on bread or hemp-ſeed. They ſhould have a freſh pan of water twice a week. When cramped, put fern or clean ſtraw on the bottom of the cage, and feed them, as they lie, with Nightingale's meat.

TITLARK. This bird is handſomely ſhaped, and excelled by very few. It has no remarkable ſong, unleſs the

the cock is particularly excellent, when it will ſing like a Canary-bird. The neſtling cock has more yellow, eſpecially under the throat, legs, and ſoles of the feet, than the hen.

TOM-TIT, otherwiſe Joe Bent, is a very pleaſing bird, and has a pretty ſong.

Food.---They will thrive with bread and cheeſe, and, when grown up, with hemp-ſeed. But they reliſh the Woodlark's food the beſt.

TWITE. This bird, which is ſuppoſed to be a native of Germany, viſits this iſland in winter. It is very briſk, and always ſinging. It is gentle, familiar, and is hung among other birds, to provoke them to ſing. The cock is known by a red ſpot on the rump.

Food.---Rape and canary; but they like the latter beſt.

WOODLARK. The Woodlark is eſteemed the beſt ſong-bird in the kingdom. It ſings nine months in the year. The cock is known by its ſize and ſong.

Food.

FOOD.---Hard egg, chopped and minced, with crumbs of bread, a little hemp and maw-feed. One egg is enough for fix Larks. Give them ſometimes minced meat, as other birds, but no turf in their cage.

WREN. This is the ſmalleſt of ſong-birds, being only about four inches long, from the top of the bill to the end of the tail. It has, however, a very loud ſong. The cock has a dark brown back and head, with a white breaſt and bill; the tail and wings are of a bright yellow, variegated with dark lines.

FOOD.---The ſame as the Nightingale; but, when ſick, two or three flies, or ſpiders.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.